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VIRGINIA

BUNDLE R

Nos. 61-118 Inclusive.

(Contains papers dated 1727 to 1729)



An Acc<sup>t</sup> of Nathaniel Harrison's proceed<sup>ings</sup> <sup>(p. 10)</sup>  
 ings when he went out, by Order of Government  
 to meet with the Cattaubau Indians,  
 that gave disturbance to the Southern Fron-  
 tier Inhabitants of this Country—

The Government having been informed, that  
 a great Body of Cattauba Indians, had been on  
 the Southern Frontiers of this Country, and that  
 they had committed several Murders on the  
 Nakerin Indians, and Riber's on the English, that  
 lived remote: And were many of them gone  
 home with their Booty; but that there remained  
 at Christina, four or five of their Chief men, ex-  
 pecting a much greater Number than they at  
 first brought with them; The Government therefore  
 thought fit to direct, that I should take such  
 Force and Measures, as I thought most proper, to  
 know these Indians Intentions, and prevent, if  
 possible, any Mischief that they might design  
 against the Frontier Inhabitants, And in Obedience  
 to these directions, I immediately ordered some of  
 the most convenient Troops, and Foot Companies, to  
 rendezvous at particular places that I directed them  
 to attend me on this occasion. And in order to prose-  
 cute this Affair in the most effectual manner, I  
 went from home my self, Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> day of



August, and proceeded as is set forth in the following Journal.

Aug<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> I reached to Henry Beddingfields, on Joseph's Swamp

31. I travel'd out to John Carters, on the three Creeks, near Naherin River.

1767  
2  
Sep<sup>r</sup> 1. The Sapponie Indians that live at Christiana, came to me, as I had before ordered, who told me, that the Chief Men of the Wautaubaus, that stay'd some time at their Town, (after they had sent home their first party of men) had been gone from thence, Thirteen days, to Ronook River and that they had taken up their Quarters in an Island in that River, that is a very near the Ford, so that when their people came in, they might see them pass the Ford and joyn them.

I desired to be informed from the Sappomys, what they thought was the design of these Western Indians coming in such great Bodys into this Country; And if they believ'd they (the Wautaubaus) intended any mischief to our people, and how they (the Sappomies) that were in Alliance with us, and under our protection, came to harbour them?

Their Answer to the first Question was, That they did not know what their designs were, but they were affraid they had Mischief in their hearts; And as to the second Question, they said, that altho' they were



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their friends & Brothers, yet they did not desire their company, but were affraid to tell them so, because it would make them angry and they were too powerful to pretend to quarrel with.

Then I asked the Sappons, what Methods they thought would be most proper to prevent them from coming amongst us again, and disturbing our Frontier Inhabitants, as they had now done?

Their Answer was, that I was very well acquainted with the Nature of the Indians, and could contrive better in that case, than they could.

I asked them if there was any possibility of coming to talk with these Chief men, or the King of the Sugers as I heard one of them call him, before they returned home.

They answered. They did not know whether they would come back or not. if they heard I was out.

I then told them, that I expected two of them (the Sapp?) should immediately go to them (the Cautaubas) and let them know, that I, as a friend, had sent them word, that a great Body of Dinica Indians, were daily expected down Roanoke River in Periauges to the Tuskaroroos, and perhaps might discover them, and either kill or take them all prisoners in their way, and therefore my Advice was, that they should return to the Fort at Christiana, where they would be



ing,

in Daft, and wait there till the coming of the men they expected. This message occasioned their immediate return to the Fort where, the Tuesday following, (which was the day I had ordered the forces that were to attend me to be ready at certain places in that neighbourhood.) I went; and because I would not frighten these people with the appearance of too many men at once, I took only five men with me, and fortunately met with those people I wanted to see, which occasioned the following dialogue with the Chief Man of the Cautaubaus, whom they called King of the Sugers.

Harrison

I am sent here to know of you, why such great numbers of your Indians are brought into this Country to the disturbance, and prejudice of our people?

King

I have not brought any of my people here with design to do any harm to, or disoblige the English of this Country but hearing, by two white men called, Bolsons, that the Tuskorocas had killed many of the Sappony Indians last Winter, that are our Brothers and Friends, we came to assist them, to take Revenge on those Murderers.

Harrison

If that only was your business here, how came you to tell the Maherin Indians, that were not concerned in that Murder you talk of?

King

When we went from hence with design to go



to the Tusks we met with two white Men, who told us, that the Nakerins and Tusks, were all one, and were always together; which occasioned us to resolve to fall upon them in our way, and so that Mischief happened to be done; but if I had known, that the English would have been angry at it, as I now understand they are, we would not have done it.

Harrison You could not but know the English wd. be displeased at the Murder of that people, because when your men were sent to my house, to Notify your coming to this place, I forbid them meddling with any Tributary Indians, or disturbing any white people, of this or Carolina Government and bid them tell you, We were all the Subjects, and people of one great King. and therefore should take it very much amiss, and be very angry, if any Mischief was done by your people, to any<sup>(p. 1)</sup> of either Government.

To this he did not Answer, only that he did not know that those Indians belonged to this Government.

Harrison If you had no Mischivious Intentions against any of our people, and designed no harm to any body but the Tuskororoos, why came you here, this being much out of your way to go to the Tusks?





King. We came here, to hear the truth of what we were told by those two white men, above named, but never designed any Mischief to any people of this Country.

Harrison. If you came from home without intentions of Mischief to us: besides the Murder of the Makere, how came you to suffer your Indians to rob our people's houses, to kill their hogs, and steal their corn? This is what makes our Great men very Angry, and has almost provoked them to order me to take you all, and send you to prison.

King. I know some of our Young men are very foolish & unruly, and it may be have done some such things, but if you will let me know, what anyone has lost by my people, it shall be paid for.

Harrison. Very well. I shall talk with you further on that head, and then you shall have an Acct: what you are to pay, and to who. But these losses are not all that we are angry with you, and your people for; You have been very rude, in using terrifying threats, and locking and presenting your Guns, to the breasts of several of our white men, which, you must know, is such an Affront to our King and his great men here, that I now not only Demand Satisfaction for this Offensive Behaviour to our own people, but an equal Number of your men, to those you Murdered of the



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE INDIAN ARCHIVES  
Saherins, be given up to us, to be delivered to them,  
for the men your people murdered of that Na-  
tion, and to that end, I have almost a mind to  
take all you that are here, save one to go to your  
country to let your people know that you shall  
be set at liberty when you will answer this demand.

King I did not think, that what we did to  
that Nation, would make you so angry, if <sup>(p. 11.) [Saherins said  
in binding]</sup>  
I had it, should not have been done that is all  
I can say to you; You may do as you please I can't  
tell how to help it.

Harrison No, since there are no more of you here, I  
shan't insist upon detaining you, but if all your  
men were here, that I understand you expect,  
I would either have so many given up to me to be  
delivered to the Saherins, or else I would kill your  
whole Company; but the English scorn to act such  
an Indian part, as to insult or punish you now  
you are alone.

King To be sure, I never thought to disoblige the  
people of this Government for whom, both I, and my  
people, have always had a very great friendship, and  
to shew the kindness we have for them, we make  
it our business to kill deer, and get skins, for their  
Traders.

Harrison I can't tell any one's thoughts, but by his actions,



and that convinces me, that you are all Rogues, like other Indians, and as to your pretended friendship in killing Deer, and getting Skins for our Traders, we don't look on that as a particular friendship in you, for you may very well think, that I know, you are oblig'd to kill deer for the support of your Women and Children; and without our friendship in supplying you with Guns, and Ammunition you must all starve, and what is as bad, become a prey to your Enemies; so that the Friendship is from us, in trading with and supplying you with these Necessarie Goods, for your support, and Defence.

King. That's true, and we always desire friendship, and peace with you.

Harrison. Your behaviour since you came in now, don't shew it.

King. To convince you of our friendship to the English, especially my own, I desire you'll let me bring you some letters from the white people of South Carolina, by which, I don't doubt, but you'll be satisfied, that I have always behaved well, and like a true friend to the English.

Harrison. I am unacquainted, indeed, with your Behaviour in that Government: but since you have been here, I don't think that / either you, or your people, have behaved like Friends, and I must give you to

[p. 2]



understand, that we here, judge of people by  
their behaviour, and not by their words.

King To convince you that I am really your  
friend, I will make you a present of two hun-  
dred Buck Skins, if you will have them.

Harrison No, I never yet took presents of any Indians.  
It is not for your skins that I came here at this  
time, I came to tell you that our great men  
are very angry to hear that you offer to come  
in such great Numbers into this Country, to  
the Disturbance of our out Settlements; I dis-  
pise presents from Indians, as all the Sappers can  
now tell you, and I must let you know, that  
I have no other views in all the trouble I take  
on these occasions, but that every body may go  
about their business without Disturbance, and  
live at peace and quiet.

King I believe the English are great lovers of  
peace, and very good Friends to all Indians,  
that don't disturb them and therefore, I tell you,  
we won't do any thing to make you angry with  
us hereafter.

Harrison Since you seem to be resolv'd to behave  
yourselves so well and friendly for the future,  
I shan't give you any further trouble now, only  
to let you know, that I expect the Mahin boy.



you took prisoner, be delivered up to me to be sent home and that you will order that fellow there, called Dick, a severe whipping, for his Saucy Behaviour since he has been here, when I have proved his Words and Actions to you.

King. The Maherin boy you demand, is sent to the Bantabans, but if he be alive, when I come out there, he shall be sent to the Sappo, to be delivered to you, and as for this fellow if you please, you may order him a Whipping.

Harrison By your discourse and especially by your civil Answer to my last proposal, of delivering up the boy and whipping that fellow, I shall at this time discharge you, after you have seen the Troops I have with me and the provision I have made, to march to your Town / if I had not met you, and been truly satisfied, that you had no designs of disturbing any of the Inhabitants that belong to this, or Carolina Government: but I have much more to say to you, that I shall acquaint you of anon, when you are rested.

[p. 13]  
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In the night (after I had ordered the Troops to their several Quarters, and supped) I went to the House where this King lodged, and carried a man with me, that could talk his language, and told him, that it was then late, and that I was



very weary, therefore I should not trouble him with any more discourse till next morning, when I should treat further with him, of such things as the great Men of this Country, had given me directions about. To which he said, Very well, I will talk with you in the Morning. But I believe he was so overcome with fear, at the sight of the great Number <sup>of</sup> men I had with me, That he, and his Retinue, went all away in the night; I staid till the Evening, the next Day, in hopes he would return, but could not hear any thing, of any of them. Then I removed from thence; down the River, about Seven Miles, and left word with the Sapping Indians, that if the Dautaubas returned, to send me word of it, if they would not come down to me, that I might see them again. And after staying in expectation of their return, two Nights, and hearing nothing of them, I resolved to proceed homeward and got there the tenth of September, twelve days from my setting out.

Nath<sup>l</sup> Harrison

Endorsed. Virginia / Journal of Mr. Harrison's <sup>[p. 10.]</sup>  
proceedings about some Indians / who disturbed the Frontiers of / Virginia / referred to in / Mr. Gouch's letter / of  
16 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1727 / Rec<sup>d</sup> 16 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1727 } / R. 63 / 15  
(<sup>was evidently a mistake</sup>) Read



My Lords

[p. 79]

The General Assembly not concluding their Session till the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, and the General Court ~~following~~<sup>immediately following</sup>, it was not possible for me to get the Transcripts of the journals and Laws of that Session in a readiness to be sent to your Lordships any sooner; however, I hope the conveniency of sending them by John Randolph Esq: the Clerk of the House of Burgesses, who, going to England for the recovery of his health, will be ready to satisfy your Lordships in any Point wherein you may desire to be further informed, will in some measure excuse this unavoidable delay.

I am now to make some Observations on the Laws herewith sent, and shal begin with those which are not to take place untill they receive his Majesty's Approbation.

And the first is, An Act for laying a Duty on Slaves imported & appointing a Treasurer. By it a Duty of 40<sup>s</sup> an Head is laid on all Slaves imported into this Colony for Sale to be paid by the Importer, with the usual clauses for the regular Collecting & Paying that Duty; and for drawing back the whole upon the exportation within three Moneths. This Duty is to commence upon his Majesty's assent to the Act being publicly notified in this Dominion, and



thence to continue for three years & no longer.  
the Money arising from it is to be accounted for  
by a Treasurer, and disposed of to such Publick  
Uses as the Governour Council & Burgesses shall  
agree upon. I must observe to your Lordships that  
though the particular services for which this  
Money is intended are not express'd in the Act,  
yet there is a constant Charge w<sup>ch</sup> annually  
arises for the prosecution of Criminals, for recompens-  
ing the owners of Slaves condemn'd for capital Offences,  
for discharging the Ballows of many publick Officers,  
and for keeping the Capitol and other Publick Build-  
ings in repair; which cannot be supported without  
such a Duty as is here proposed, nor can any thing  
of Importance be undertaken for the benefit of the  
Publick without such a reserv'd Fund, seeing a Poll-  
Tax in Tobacco has been found grievous to the People,  
and through the uncertainty of its value of very  
little encouragement to People to engage in the  
publick Service. But besides, 'tis the common topick  
among the People that while the like or a greater  
Duty on Negroes subsists & has continued for a long  
time in Maryland a Proprietary Government, it is hard  
that They who are under his Majesty's immediate Go-  
vernment should be restrained from the same means  
of securing & improving their Country; and from these



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN  
considerations moved the Assembly to attempt the re-enacting a Law which had been formerly disapproved, in hopes, that its conformity now to the Kings Instructions, and the necessity of a Fund for the publick Service, will induce his Majesty to give it his Royal Sanction for the short time it is to continue. The only Objection, I think, that can be brought against this Law is, the private Interest of the Importer: but when it is considered that the price of Negroes will always be advanced in proportion to the Duty, they can't be sufferers by it. And the money will be taken out of their pockets, who are the Advocates for it. If therefore your Lordships have no other Exception to this Law, I hope the united desires of all the People of this colony will obtain your Lordship's favourable Representation of it to his Majesty.

The next is Ent<sup>d</sup>: an Act for erecting a Light-house on Cape Henry: By this Act there's a thousand Pounds appropriated for building a substantial Light-house of Brick or Stone, and for purchasing grounds sufficient for that & the Keeper of it; and for reimbursing that charge & defraying the expence of keeping a constant Light there for the conveniency of Shipping it is proposed that a duty one Penny p Tunn according to their measure be paid by all Ships & Vessels passing through the Capes of Virginia. But



this Act is not to be in force untill approved by his Majesty, nor unless the Province of Maryland pass an Act for raising and collecting the same Lightmoney on the Ships & Vessels trading thither. I need add little to what is contained in the preamble of this Bill to shew the usefulness & expediency of this Undertaking; for surely there is no place of Trade where a Lighthouse is more necessary: A flat Coast for many Leagues on each side the Capes, and scarce discernable in the clearest Weather above five Leagues off at sea, surely requires some noted Landmark to guide the doubting Mariner: the sudden changes of the Wind in those Seasons of the Year when the Ships most frequent this Coast, makes it necessary that no time be lost for their getting in, since whenever the Northwest Wind begins to blow it is with great violence and holds generally for many days, so that Ships coming to Groundings in the Night and having nothing to direct their Course, are frequently drove back to Sea in the Morning, when by the conveniency of this necessary & useful Work they might have got within the Capes in safety. And indeed considering the number & value of the Ships employ'd in the Trade of Virginia & Maryland it seems strange that such a Design hath been so long delay'd: for since



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

I first propos'd it, I have not heard of any Master of a Ship trading hither but what owns the use of it, and allows the Duty for supporting of it, very reasonable. / But as it is impossible to account<sup>(p. 10.)</sup> for Popular humours, I am apprehensive this good Work may be obstructed by the refusal of the Assembly of Maryland to come into a Law for raising the same Duty, tho' tis certain the Trade of that Province will reap a greater benefit by it than that of Virginia. for as they & we receive the same Advantage with respect to Inward bound Ships, so they of Maryland in their outward bound Voyage have by much the greater want & occasion for it; for our Ships setting saile in the morning from any of our Rivers w<sup>th</sup> a fair wind can get out of the Bapes before Night, whereas the Maryland Ships having a much longer run down the Bay are frequently benighted before they can get sight of the Cape, whereby it has happened that divers Ships of value have in the compass of a few years past been cast away on the Shoals either of the Horse-shoe, or middle Ground which extends a considerable way from the Bapes up the Bay of Chesapeake and form a narrow & difficult Channell. I have lately had an opportunity, by a visit to me, to discourse with the Governour of Maryland on this



Subject, and find him well inclined to forward this Project of a Lighthouse, but cannot answer for the temper of his Assembly which is to meet next October: And it may perhaps afford them an handle for cavilling that this Act now seems to lay the Duty on the Maryland Shipping and exacts the obedience of that Province in their Officers collecting of it. 'Tis true the Act might have been penned in smoother Terms with regard to that Province, nor can I excuse our Burgesses for framing of it in that manner. But as Publick benefits ought to overbalance as well private Interest as the transgression of common Forms, and as the Assembly of Maryland may Word their Act in what Strains they please so that the Work be carried on and supported; I hope your Lordship's Authority will prevail with Lord Baltimore to recommend it to his Assembly, and with the Maryland merchants to consent that the same Duty be paid by their Ships as is imposed on Ours: And this with his Majesty's approbation which I hope will easily be obtain'd, will encourage me & the other Trustees immediately to sett about and finish this necessary Work. But if any Obstruction should happen on the part of Maryland, I doubt not but your Lordship's Interest may procure that provision by an Act of Parliament to bind both



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS  
Governments to do that good to themselves & the  
Trade of Great Britain which their own narrow  
Views will not suffer them to comply with.

These are the only Acts of a publick Nature which  
are to wait his Majesty's approbation before they  
can take Effect. I proceed to the Others.

And the Third is, An Act for the better  
and more effectual improving the Staple of Tobac-  
co, and is almost the same in Substance with  
that pass'd in 1725 by Mr. Drysdale, except that  
there are some explanations added in this which  
are said to have been intended by the former tho  
doubtfully express'd. As that Law continued for three  
years without any exception taken to it that I  
ever heard of, and it being found by experience  
that it did no ways lessen the quantity of Tobacco,  
but amended its quality, I need say nothing more to  
recommend this to his Majesty's approbation, unless  
that there is in it one Clause not in the former,  
obliging the Planters to a certain Method in the  
tying up their Tobacco, which will both render  
it more merchantable and more effectually discover  
any practices of packing therein trash or bad  
Tobacco.

The Fourth is an Act for preventing excessive &  
deceitful Gaming! being copied almost verbatim



from an Act of Parliament made in the ninth year of R. Anne needs no other recommendation than what the Wisdom of the British Parliament has already given it. And as I found the Evil intended to be remedied by it there, required equal redress here, in regard of the many loose and idle Persons who were got into the same vile way of spending their time; I thought it not improper to apply the same salutary Provisions & Penalties to discourage so pernicious a Practice.

The Fifth. An Act for the better support of the clergy of this Dominion and for better collecting the Parish Levies. By this Act many disputes & controversies between the Ministers & their Parishioners arising in the construction of former Laws are removed, the Salary of the clergy made more easy & valuable, and a good provision established for building & maintaining convenient & suitable Habitations for them. And in fine, it is such a beneficial Act that the clergy have great reason to be well satisfied with it and I hope it will prove an Encouragement to good Men to come & settle among us.

The Sixth. An Act for preventing delays in the Courts of Justice &c. — By this Act many inconveniences which were found in former Laws, particularly in relation



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE  
to the Proceedings in the General Court / are removed: <sup>(p<sup>n</sup>)</sup>  
for whereas a common Action of Debt hitherto in the  
General Court could not be brought to a determinate  
judgment in less than eighteen Months, and often  
required a longer time; By the new method of Prac-  
tice established by this Act; such a Suit must have  
its determination the second General Court, and in many  
Cases judgment will be obtained the first: and in  
general all causes whatsoever will now receive a more  
speedy Decision, and with less trouble to the Court.  
This new Method is also more conformable to the  
Practice of the Courts of Westminster Hall, and will  
deserve the more Applause on that Account. By this  
also is established a quick & summary way of determin-  
ing final causes in the County Courts and a restraint  
laid on bringing Appeals (w<sup>ch</sup> is here in place of Writs of Err-  
or) for trifling causes. And on all these considerations I  
make no doubt but it will prove a beneficial Law, and  
such as may well deserve to be made perpetual; but  
at present it is only to be in force for four years, because  
the Assembly were willing to try the effects of it, before such  
an Alteration was established as this introduces in the  
method of Practice.

The Seventh. An Act to explain & amend the Act  
for declaring the Negroe Mulatto & Indian slaves with-  
in this Dominion to be real Estate &c. The Act now



explained by the first part of this new Law was made in the year 1706. And 'tis said was intended at first to extend no further than to preserve the Slaves of Persons dying Intestate from the ill practices of Administrators who generally converted the Slaves to their own use rendering only to the Heir the appraised value: but by some other clauses inserted in that Law it came to pass that People thought themselves enabled to entail their Negroes, and divers constructions have been made of that Law seemingly contradictory one to another; Such it seems are the difficultys of making a perishable Thing governable by the same rules of Succession as Lands of Inheritance. To obviate these inconveniencies and to remove & avoid all Doubts & Disputes in the design of the Act now passed; whereby Slaves remain still a Chattel in all Case of Sale, Gift or Devise; And the Husband by the intermarriage hath the absolute property of all Slaves that did appertain to the Wife. No Entail can be made of Slaves unless they are annexed to Entailed Lands; And even in that Case, they are liable to the Debts of the Tenant in Tail. And by the latter part of this Act another doubt is explained touching a clause of the Act for distribution of Intestates Estates, whereby the Widows right to her share of the real & personal Estate of



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DEPARTMENT OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

her Husband is more clearly settled. These are the principal Heads of this Act, against which great Exception is taken, by many Persons here, who urge that it is hard to vest all the Slaves of the wife in the Husband who may squander away his Estate, sell her Slaves, and leave her a Beggar. That the subjecting Negroes settled with Lands in Tail to the payment of the Debts of the Tenant in Tail, to the prejudice of Him in remainder, is defeating the intent of the first Donor, and must render ineffectual all such Settlements as are made for the increase & preservation of the Estates in their Descendants, in as much as Lands without Slaves are of little value. But it is argued on the other side that the inconveniency to the Woman is no greater than if her Fortune consisted in money, where the absolute property becomes the Husbands & liable to his Disposal: that the Hardship is much greater when a Man marries a Woman whose Portion is only in Slaves, if after maintaining her many Years suitable to her Rank and Degree, and then she dying without Issue, her whole Estate shall be taken away from the Husband; and that if Slaves were to be settled in Tail in the same manner as Lands, many Creditors would be defrauded, and especially the British Merchants, who



can't be informed or always made acquainted w<sup>th</sup> such Settlements, but generally give Credit according to the number of Slaves they know a Man is possess'd of. These, my Lords, are the Arguments for & against this Bill, which I submit to your Lordship's Judgment.

The Eight. An Act for making more effectual provision against Invasions & Insurrections. great Part of this Act is the same with one pass'd in 1706 and continued by many subsequent Acts; but there being sundry defects in those Acts, and the Burgesses inclining to continue it further for two Years only, did accordingly prepare a Bill for that purpose: When the Council resolving on a more effectual Security rejected that Bill and fram'd this now pass'd; Wherein besides ascertaining of the Pay the Militia are to be paid by the Publick if they are call'd out into Service for above two days at any one Time, and their Patrolling to prevent in the Holydays the consultations of Negroes is declared a Service for which they are entituled to Pay, which was not so before; Guards are also by this Act to be appointed by the Governour for the several Batteries, and some other necessary regulations for rendering the Service of the Militia more effectual. So that upon the whole this is a beneficial



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION OF THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE  
Law and liable to no exception that I know of, unless that of its being temporary, for three years only, which may be enlarged hereafter.

The Ninth. An Act for the better securing the payment of Rates &c. This is the same in substance with an Act bearing the same Title passed in 1723. and being only temporary was expired; There are in this Act two new clauses, One to declare what shall be accounted a legal settlement to oblige the Parish to maintain their Poor; and the other to prevent a very unjust practice of Masters of Ships in turning away Sick & disabled Seamen, and so leaving them either to starve, or become a Parish charge, both of which are I hope without exception.

The Tenth. An Act for the better regulating & ascertaining the current Rates of silver coin in this Dominion, and for preventing the evil practice of cutting foreign Gold into pieces. The drawing the silver coin out of this Country, and introducing in the stead thereof the gold coin, which passes at a greater Value, was so sensibly felt in the Commerce of the Country, that it was absolutely necessary to raise the Value of the Silver in a nearer proportion to that of the Gold currency, which yet is much lower than the Rates establish'd by the Act of Parliament passed in the 6<sup>th</sup> Year of R. Anne. The



latter part of this Act is intended to prevent a very common but pernicious Practice of clipping the Gold into small pieces for the convenience of making up the Weight where payments are made in Gold. This was first begun in the Northern Governments, where all sorts of Coin have been thus clipped & defaced, and has of late been the Occasion of passing abundance of counterfeit <sup>small</sup> little resembling Gold, which has passed unobserved through several hands, and the first Practicers of this Fraud escaped undiscovered. So that it became necessary to put a stop to such an Evil wh<sup>ch</sup> I hope this Act will effectually do.

The Eleventh. An Act for the better and more effectual putting the Penal Laws in Execution is founded upon the experience of the small effect that Prosecutions on penal Laws have hitherto had towards the reforming of Abuses & punishing Offenders, partly through the Scruples of some Inferior Courts to take cognizance of Penalties of small value, but more especially through the want of knowledge in the Persons who practice the Law in the the County Courts, whereby many Judgments on penal Laws have been arrested or reversed for defects in the Pleadings. This Act therefore directs that Penalties under twenty Shillings may be summarily



61.  
recovered on the presentment of the Grand Jurys  
in the County Courts, and that no defect or mis-  
sion in form shall stay or reverse judgments  
for any Penalty under five Pounds or one thousand  
Pounds of Tobacco. This indeed I am informed is  
not the practice in England! Yet our Circumstances  
differing greatly in respect to the Persons practic-  
ing the Law in our County Courts, make it abso-  
lutely necessary to find out a more effectual  
method of bringing Offenders to punishment; than  
by a strict adhering to Forms, lose the effect of  
those Laws which provide for the publick Peace &  
the preservation of Order in y<sup>e</sup> Government, and  
justice & morality in the Members of the Community.

The Twelfth. An Act prohibiting the exportation  
of Grain in Time of Scarcity. As this Country has  
heretofore suffered greatly by the avarice of Merchants,  
who for private Gain have exported Corn and  
Wheat, when the necessity of the Inhabitants requir-  
ed rather Supplies from abroad, than to have their  
stores lessened at home; and as the prohibitions of  
the Governour & Council for want of a Law to inflict  
punishment on the Offenders, were fruitless & contemptible:  
It was high time for y<sup>e</sup> Legislature to resist so  
great an Evil, especially, when the small crops made  
the last year, and the great consumption for the



support of the stocks of battle during the course of a long & severe Winter threatened the Inhabitants with an uncommon Scarcity. Therefore this Act gives power to the Governour, with the advice of the Council to prohibit by Proclamation the exportation of Grain or other Victuals when need shall require; and lays a Penalty on the Exporter of double the value of the corn exported and if seized before exportation the whole to be forfeited. The good effect of this Act hath been already felt by preserving for the supply of the Inhabitants a great quantity of corn bought up for Exportation and which would certainly have been carried out, notwithstanding my Proclamation, but for this reasonable Precaution.

The Thirteenth. An Act for establishing the <sup>[p. 11]</sup> Fees of certain Officers therein mentioned. / Here the Fees of the Secretary, County Court Clerks, Sheriffs, Coroners & Constables are anew regulat'd & ascertained for the space of three years next coming, and from thence to the end of the next Session of Assembly. Some new Fees are added and others moderated according to the nature of the Service; the former Law which had settled those Fees being expired: And because the new regulation in the courts of justice made it necessary to adapt the fees to the circumstances of the



several Proceedings and that Law being only Temporary, it was fit that those fees should remain no longer than the Services to which they are suited; but if upon Experience the one be found useful, and therefore thought fit to be continued, the other, at the same Time will receive its Sanction.

The Fourteenth. An Act for erecting a Town in each of the Counties of Spotsylvania & King George, is among the number of publick Acts, seeing it is grounded upon the general Benefit which the Trade of this Colony will receive from it. For those two Counties, especially the former, being greatly increased in Inhabitants and extended on both sides the branches of Rappahannock River, and being obliged to bring their Tobacco to the first Landings where that River is Navigable, which is just below the Falls; their Industry has been hitherto much discouraged for want of convenient Storehouses to lodge their Commodities, and much more for being deprived of the opportunity of selling the same to advantage, the Land on both sides that part of the River being held by private Persons, who not only exacted exorbitant prices for Storage, but endeavoured to engross the whole Trade to themselves, since no other Merchant could settle there without the consent of the owners, which was not to be obtained. To remove these inconveniencies



it was judged expedient to ~~appropriate~~ appropriate 50 Acres of Land on each side that River, and to lay it out into Lots, for the use of such as shall be inclined to build Warehouses or fix Stores of Goods there for the benefit of those remote Inhabitants. And that the Owners of the Land might have no reason to complain here is taken to give them a very considerable recompence of no less than Forty Shillings for each Acre; which in truth is four times as much as Lands in those Parts commonly are sold for! Tho' the owners of those Lands have unwillingly parted with their Property for this use, and threaten to attempt the repealing this Act, yet I must declare their complaints are founded, more on their Humour & Passion, than on Reason. For the Assembly had no other means to relieve the hardships of the Frontier People, and what they have now done is, with remarkable regard to justice & to the Interest of y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors if they know when to be contented; since both their present recompence is very sufficient, and the future value of their adjacent Lands will be considerably augmented, if, as 'tis hoped, those desigrid Towns come once to be Peopled. So that I hope your Lordships will give little Attention to the very unreasonable blamours of private Persons, in a Matter wherein the Publick is so much



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Benefited, As, with submission, I think it is by this Act.

The Fifteenth. An Act for encouraging Adventurers in Iron-works. This Act exempts the Servants & Slaves employed in any Iron-work already sett up, or which for the space of 21 years next coming shall be sett up, in this Kingdom, from the payment of all Publick, County or Parish Taxes for five years, after the end of this Session of Assembly, or for five years from the beginning of their respective Undertakings. They are also to have Roads & Bridges made for them by y<sup>e</sup> County in which they are erected, and to have some other privileges of less moment, that the Persons employ'd in those Works, which require constant Attendance, may not be diverted from their Business. I doubt not your Lordships are well satisfied that the making & carrying to Great Britain pigs of Iron is of great advantage to the Trade thereof, as well as to the benefit of this Country; and that such encouragement as the Assembly have thought fit to allow by this Act, will meet with all fitting countenance from your Lordships Board.

The Sixteenth. The Act for raising a publick Levy, being what passes in course every Session for the payment of the publick Tobacco



Debt, all that I shal remark thereon is, that seven and an half pounds of Tobacco p Pole for near two years publick Charge, is an evidence of the usefulness of the Duty lately laid on Liquor, which has thus lessened that Pole Tax, so as to render it thus easy to the People.

(p. 22)

/ Having thus gone through the several Acts which are of more general Concernment: it remains that I make mention of the few others which are calculated for remedying particular Inconveniencies. Such are -

The 17<sup>th</sup> An Act for dividing the County of Henrico.

The 18<sup>th</sup> And an Act for erecting a new County on the Heads of Essex, King & Queen, and King William Counties.

These two are occasioned by the earnest desires of the People in those Parts of the Colony who having since the formation of those first Counties extended their Settlements far from the usual Places of holding their Courts of justice: the Assembly have for their ease erected two new Counties, whereby the Inhabitants may with more convenience attend their Courts, be ready at the Musters of the Militia and other publick Meetings.

The 19<sup>th</sup> An Act for killing Squirrels & Crows in the Counties of Accomack & Northampton. It seems



these two bounties are more than any other in the colony infested with these Destroyers of the fruits of the Earth. whether their nearness to Maryland, or the Eastern shore, where the like Law has subsisted many years, has driven them to seek after a safe retreat elsewhere, or what other cause it be, the People have laboured for some years past to obtain such an Act as is now passed, whereby every Master of a Family is obliged to kill or cause to be kill'd Six Squirrels or Six Crows for every tithable Person in his Family, under the Penalty of three pounds of Tobacco for every one he is deficient in, to be applied for lessening the Bounty Levy. And this to continue for three years, by which time the People are in hopes to free themselves from the Injuries they receive from these Enemies to their crops.

The 20<sup>th</sup> An Act for dissolving the present Vestry of the Parish of Elizabeth City &c. This was obtained upon the general complaint of the Inhabitants of that Parish, of many irregular Proceedings of the said Vestry. And upon an hearing of the Parties there being found some reason on the part of the Petitioners, it was thought fit to allow them a new choice. But whether the justice & consideration of the new Vestry. men



will be greater than that of their Predecessors, must be left to time. All I shal say of this Bill, being, that it is sometimes necessary to yield to popular Humours, where the Publick receives no prejudice by it, rather than to increase discontent for the sake of private Interest.

The 21<sup>st</sup> An Act, to prevent Swine running at large within the limits of the Town of Norfolk, is of the same nature with others pass'd in former Assemblies in favour of particular Townships, and therefore needs no comment, since the reasons for restraining those kind of Creatures are obvious.

The 22<sup>d</sup>. There is one private Act which still remains, that pass'd this Session. And that is an Act to enable William Farver & Thomas Farver to sell & convey certain entail'd Lands, and for settling other Lands & Negroes of greater value to the same uses. As your Lordships will be attended by the Person concerned for obtaining his Majesty's Royal Approbation; I need only to observe that this Bill has pass'd in all the forms required by his Majesty's Instructions; and as no one offered to oppose it here, I must believe that all Parties are entirely satisfied with the exchange proposed thereby, and desirous of its receiving that



Sanction which is necessary to secure their respective Interest. I have further to acquaint your Lordship, that,

Towards the end of this Session the Burgesses had under consideration the great loss & inconvenience which this Colony sustains by being deprived of the liberty of Stemming Tobacco: and agreed upon an Address to his Majesty & a Petition to the House of Commons for repealing that part of a late Act of Parliament whereby the importation of Tobacco stript from the stalk is prohibited; in both which the Council concurred with them. The reasons suggested for altering the Law in this particular, are at large sett forth in the said Address and Petition, & in the journal of the Council in Assembly of the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, to which I beg leave to refer, without offering any opinion of my own further, than that having discoursed with many Persons concerned in the Trade, I find it generally agreed that abundance of good Tobacco is now thrown away, which would have been ship'd home had the Planters been at liberty by stemming to separate it from that part of the leaf which is really bad, and it seems to be also agreed that much <sup>[part]</sup> of this kind of Tobacco thrown away by the owner, is yet by their Servants & Slaves made up into bundles and sold at a small price to Sailors, who can have



no other view of profit thereby, than the running it without paying the Duty; And if this be so, as I have great reason to believe it is, I doubt not, this Application of the Assembly will meet with a favourable Reception.

I must not omit informing your Lordships of one thing which has occasioned a difference between the Council & Burgesses this last Session, and which, I am apprehensive, may afford matter of discontent in future Assemblies. The Burgesses passed a Resolve for paying their own attendance in Assembly out of the publick Fund raised by the Duty on Liquors at the rate of ten Shillings for each hundred of Tobacco allowed them by Law. This Resolve being sent up to the Council for their concurrence, was rejected: whereupon the Burgesses immediately prepared a Bill to apply the Money in the Treasurer's hands towards the discharge of their Salaries; but this Proceeding was so much disliked by the Council that the Bill was thrown out by a greater Majority than had voted against the Resolve, to the great discontent of the House of Burgesses at their second disappointment, and it cost me no small trouble before I could bring them again into Temper. The Burgesses insist that the Duty on Liquors being laid



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for lessening the Levy by the Poll, the payment of their Salaries is one of the uses for which it was appropriated; since that must otherwise be raised by a Poll-tax on the People, and that it has been so discharged in four successive Sessions. Viz. two in the time of Gov: Spotswood and two in the time of Gov: Drysdale. on the other hand the Council urge that the Levies intended to be lessened by the Duty have ever been understood to be no other than the publick Levy chargeable equally on all the People of the Colony: whereas the Salaries of the Burgesses are chargeable only on the Inhabitants of the respective Counties by whom they are chosen; and that it would be an unequal distribution of the publick Money to allow the same share of it to a County which has a thousand Inhabitants, as One that has three Thousand, That when the payment of Burgesses was first introduced, there was a considerable sum in Bank, but that now there is not so much as will refund the money appropriated for the encouragement of the Hemp Manufacture, which has been since applied to other publick uses; And lastly, that the Act of Assembly having expressly appointed the Burgesses to be paid by their Counties, the Council cannot consent to their being paid in



any <sup>one or other</sup> of manner whilst that Act subsists. Thus I have stated to your Lordships the ground of this Dispute, and can't help saying that I'm much concerned it should arise under my Administration, being convinced that 'tis not yet ended! And am therefore very desirous to receive your Lordships Commands in what manner I am to act if any such Resolution of the Burgesses should be taken hereafter; since it may happen, that by the change of Persons in the Council, or by the necessary absence of some of those Gentlemen who have now opposed this way of payment, a contrary Vote may be carried in both Houses, and then it will rest solely upon me either to disoblige the Assembly by my Dissent, or by my Assent to lessen the publick Fund which may be necessary to be employed for more publick Services. And herein your Lordships Instructions shall be my Guide.

I have but one Thing more to mention relating to the Proceedings of the Assembly, and that concerns my self. on the 27<sup>th</sup> of February the Burgesses pass'd a Vote for presenting me with the Sum of five hundred Pounds burrd; and by their Address to me at the conclusion of the Session, have in very obliging terms requested







Endorsed. Virginia / Letter from Major  
Gooch of / Lt Gov: of Virginia to the Board  
without Date / rec<sup>d</sup> with his Dated / of Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 1728  
1728 / Rec<sup>d</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> July } 1728 / R: 46 / 3  
Read Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> 1728



(p. 1)

The Accot of His Majesty's Revenue of 2<sup>d</sup> p hogthead  
 &c; arising within this Colony of Virginia from the  
 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1727 to the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1727.

The Receiver General doth Charge himself  
 with the Receipt of the said Revenue as follows

To Ballance of the last Accot.....	£ 4600.	13.	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of the Upper District of James River.....	590.	16.	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of the Lower District of James River.....	370.	4.	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of the District of York River.....	1091.	2.	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of the District of Rappahannock River.....	537.	12.	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of the District of South Potomack.....	433.	—	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
The Accot of the Port of Accomack.....	46.	3.	4
The Accot of Sundry Rights of Land Sold.....	309.	10.	7
The Accot of Fines and forfeitures.....	17.	7.	10
	£ 5406.	11.	7

The Receiver General doth Discharge himself  
 By the payment of the following Sums.

By half a Years Salary to the Governor.....	£ 1000.	—	—
By half a Years Salary to the Council.....	175.	—	—
By a Warrt to 4 <sup>e</sup> Judges & other Officers of a Court of Oyer & Term.....	100.	—	—
By half a Years Salary to the Auditor of the Plantations.....	50.	—	—
By half a Years Salary to the Solicitor of Virginia..	50.	—	—
By half a Years Salary to the Attorney General...	20.	—	—
By half a Years Salary to the Clerk of the Council...	50.	—	—
By half a Years Salary to the Armourer.....	6.	—	—
By half a Years Salary to the Gunners of the Batteries...	20.	—	—
By a Warrt to 4 <sup>e</sup> Ministers attending one General Court...	4.	—	—
By a Warrt for Repairs done to the Governors House...	85.	10.	5
By a Warrant for Contingent Charges.....	70.	14.	—
By a Warrant for the Charges on the Trial & Execu- tion of Pyrats apprehended in North Carolina...	96.	5.	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>



12y allowance to the Auditor @ 5 p b. on £3745.18.2½	..187.	5.	10½
12y allowance to the Receiver General on the same Sum	..187.	5.	10½
So that the Sum Disbursed amounts to..	2102.	4.	4¾
And there will remain due to Ballance this Acc <sup>t</sup>	6304.	6.	11½
	£ 8406.	11.	7

John Brynes Rec<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>.

[p. 12] Nov<sup>r</sup>. 2. 1727.

I have Examined the within Rec<sup>t</sup> of His Majesty's Revenue Commencing the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1727 and Ending the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1727 and have compared every Article with its proper Voucher produced by John Brynes Esq<sup>r</sup> Receiver General. And find the Charge thereof amounting to Eight Thousand four hundred six Pounds Eleven shillings seven pence; And the Discharge to Two thousand One hundred two Pounds four shillings seven pence three farthings both truly Stated. So that there is due to His Majesty's Revenue for Ballance of this Rec<sup>t</sup> Six thousand three hundred four Pounds Six Shillings eleven pence farthing Sterling

Nath<sup>l</sup> Harrison D<sup>y</sup> Aud<sup>r</sup>

Nov<sup>r</sup>. 2. 1727

The within Rec<sup>t</sup> compared & Examined by Nath<sup>l</sup> Harrison Esq<sup>r</sup> Deputy Auditor was produced to me in Council and Sworn to by John Brynes Esq<sup>r</sup> Receiver General.

[auts] William Gooch

[p. 13] Endorsed. Virginia. / Account of His Majesty's / Revenue  
of 2<sup>d</sup> p Hoghead / in Virginia, from ye 25<sup>th</sup> April / to the  
25<sup>th</sup> of October 1727. / Rec<sup>d</sup>. with Maj<sup>r</sup>. Gooch's Lett<sup>r</sup>. / of 12<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup>y 1727-8.  
Rec<sup>d</sup>. April 17<sup>th</sup> } 1728. / R: 73 / 16  
Read



[p. 17]

The Accot of His Majestys Revenue of 2<sup>d</sup> for Hoghead &c  
Rising within this Colony of Virginia from the 25<sup>th</sup> of  
October 1727 to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1728.

The Receiver General doth Charge himself  
with the Receipt of the said Revenue as follows

To Ballance of the last Accot. . . . .	£ 6504.	6	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of the Upper District of James River . . . . .	212.	17	11
The Accot of the Lower District of James River . . . . .	116.	12	-
The Accot of the District of York River . . . . .	506.	-	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
The Accot of the District of Rappahannock River . . . . .	105.	18	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of the District of South Potomack . . . . .	76.	7	- <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of the Port of Accomack . . . . .			
The Accot of Dundry Rights of Land Sold . . . . .	590.	-	7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
The Accot of Fines and Forfeitures . . . . .	21.	4	9

So that the whole Receipt amounts to £ 7456. 8. 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

The Receiver General doth Discharge himself  
By the payment of the following Sums.

By half a years Salary to the Governor . . . . .	£ 1000.	-	-
By half a years Salary to the Council . . . . .	175.	-	-
By a Warr to y <sup>e</sup> Judges & other Officers of a Court of Oyer & Terminer . . . . .	100.	-	-
By half a years Salary to the Auditor of the Plantations . . . . .	50.	-	-
By half a years Salary to the Solicitor of Virginia . . . . .	50.	-	-
By half a years Salary to the Attorney General . . . . .	20.	-	-
By half a years Salary to the Clerk of the Council . . . . .	50.	-	-
By a Warr to the Ministers Attending One Genl Assembly gone Genl Court . . . . .	20.	-	-
By half a years Salary to the Remuner . . . . .	6.	-	-
By half a years Salary to the Gunners of the Batteries . . . . .	20.	-	-
By a Warrant for Repairs done to the Governors House . . . . .	147.	5	2
By a Warrant for Contingent Charges . . . . .	465.	3	6 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
By a Warrant for Expenses in Settling the Bounds between this Colony and North Carolina . . . . .	185.	-	4



By Allowance to the Auditor & p <sup>l</sup> on £1432, 1.5	-	71.	12.	-	2
By Allowance to the Receiver General on the same Sum . . . . .	-	71.	12.	-	2
So that the Sum Disbursed Amounts to	£2431.	13.	2		
And there will remain due to Balbohis Rec <sup>t</sup>	5504.	15.	-		
	£24736.	5.	2		

John Brynes Rec<sup>r</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>.

[p. 4]

April 25<sup>th</sup> 1728.

I have Examined the within Rec<sup>t</sup> of His Majesty's Revenue Commencing the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1727 and Ending the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1728 and have compared every Article with its proper Voucher produced by John Brynes Esq<sup>r</sup> Receiver General. And find the Charge thereof Amounting to Seven Thousand seven hundred thirty six Pounds eight shillings two pence farthing and the Discharge to Two Thousand four hundred thirty one Pounds thirteen shillings two pence farthing, both truly stated. So that there is due to His Majesty's Revenue for Balance of this Rec<sup>t</sup> Five Thousand three hundred four Pounds fifteen shillings Sterling.

Henry Willis D<sup>y</sup> Aud<sup>r</sup>

May 4<sup>th</sup> 1728.

The within Rec<sup>t</sup> Compared and Examined by M<sup>r</sup>. Henry Willis Deputy Auditor was produced to me in Council & Sworn to by John Brynes Esq<sup>r</sup> Receiver General.

William Gooch



[p. 143]

The Accot of His Majesty's Revenue of Quit Rents  
 from the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1727 to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1728  
 Arising within this Colony of Virginia.

The Receiver General doth Charge himself  
 with the Receipt of the said Revenue as follows.

To the Ballance of the Last Accot. . . . .	£ 327.	5.	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
To Old Arrears of Quit Rents Collected by the Receiver General . . . . .	.. 37.	13.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
To the Quit Rents of the Northern Neck for the Year 1727 . . . . .	.. 6.	13.	4
To the Accot of Compositions for Uncheated Lands . . . . .	.. 10.	13.	8

Quit Rents for the Year 1727

Counties Names	Number of Acres paid for	Paid for in Money or Tobacco	Deduction for Sheriff's Salarys at			Tobacco due after Sheriff's deducted	Sold at	Paid in Money Amount of the Tobacco Sold		
			20 p <sup>ts</sup>	14 p <sup>ts</sup>	10 p <sup>ts</sup>			per	lb	Sh
Accomack	225326	54078	...	...	54078	28670 $\frac{1}{2}$	6/4	158	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Brunswick	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Charles City	478028	7716 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	7715 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	79	...	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto	11424	2741 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	274	2467 $\frac{3}{4}$	5/7	10	11	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Elizabeth City	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Essex	185638	215512 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	21511 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	167	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto	3325	546	...	...	54 $\frac{1}{2}$	761 $\frac{1}{2}$	8/4	2	2	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
Gloucester	163069	21651 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	21661 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	146	15	3
Hamover	240292	2240510	...	...	224-	7	...	216	5	3
Henrico	259856	223917 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	22519 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	222	17	5
Ditto	119519	28636 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	4009	...	24627 $\frac{1}{2}$	7/2	55	4	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
James City	88364	2557 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	2516 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	79	10	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Isle of Wight	121974	212119 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	212311 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	109	15	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto	111711	26810 $\frac{1}{2}$	5362	...	...	21448 $\frac{1}{2}$	7/3	77	15	-
King William	219531	221911 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	22119 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	197	11	11
King's Queen	112000	2112-	...	...	2114-	...	...	100	16	-
Ditto	1142	274	...	...	274	246 $\frac{3}{4}$	8/4	1	-	6 $\frac{1}{2}$



Counties Names	Number of Acres paid for	Paid for in money or Tobacco	Deduction for Sheriff's Salary at			Tobacco Sold due after Salary deducted	at proo	Paid in money and Amount of the Tobacco Sold		
			20p <sup>ts</sup>	14p <sup>ts</sup>	10p <sup>ts</sup>					
Middlesex	73753	£ 73.15. 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 7. 7. 6			66	7.	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Windsor	37195	£ 35. 3. 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 3. 16. 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			34	7.	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Ditto	103049	24701 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		3462 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		21269 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7/6	79	15.	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Norfolk	20559	£ 20. 17. 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 2. 1. 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			18	15.	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Ditto	100259	24062		3265 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		20693 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	6/6	67	5.	8
Northampton	6765	£ 6. 15. 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 0. 13. 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			6	1.	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Ditto	95926	23742			2374	21365	5/7	59	13.	2
New Kent	94152	£ 94. 3. 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 9. 5. 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			54	15.	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Prince George	175268	£ 175. 5. 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 17. 10. 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			157	14.	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Ditto	22535	5450		767		4713	5/11	21	—	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Princess Ann	37943	£ 37. 18. 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 3. 15. 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			34	2.	11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Ditto	80253	19267 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		2697 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		16570 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5/2	42	16.	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Pennsylvania	145694	£ 145. 13. 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 14. 11. 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			131	2.	6
Ditto	4020	964 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			96 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	565 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7/6	3.	5.	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Surry	110476	£ 110. 9. 6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 11. — 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			99	5.	7
Ditto	139747	33309 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		6707 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		26531 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	7/7	101	14.	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Warwick	35862	£ 35. 17. 3			£ 3. 17. 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			34	19.	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
York	68314	£ 68. 6. 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 6. 16. 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			61	9.	5
									2751	7. 5
									£ 6052	13. 6

[p120]

Recears of Quit Rents for the Year 1726 paid in the Year 1727

Counties Names paid in	Number of Acres paid for	Paid for in Money or Tobacco	Deduction for Sh. Salaries at			Tobacco Sold after Sh. Salary deducted	at proo	Paid in money and Amount of the Tobacco Sold		
			20p <sup>ts</sup>	14p <sup>ts</sup>	10p <sup>ts</sup>					
Recomack	2500	672			67	603	6/4	1.	13.	5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Boxer	3143	£ 3. 2. 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 0. 6. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			2.	16.	7
Middlesex	160	£ 0. 3. 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 0. 0. 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			2.	10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
Gloucester										
Hanover	920									
King William	1440	£ 3. 10. 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			£ 0. 5. —			2.	5.	6 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Middlesex	170									



Counties Names paid in	Number of Acres paid for	Paid for in Money or Tobacco	Deduction for Sh. Salaries at			Job done after the at Salary deducted	Sold at pro	Paid in Money and Amount of the Tobacco Sold	
			20 p <sup>ts</sup>	14 p <sup>ts</sup>	10 p <sup>ts</sup>				
Manover	300								
Henrico	260	1150	1, 2, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		2, 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			1, 1, 3	
Henrico									
Prince George	300		72		10	62	7/2	4, 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
Isle of Wight									
Durvy	150	150	0, 2, -		0, 0, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			2, 8 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
Ditto	415								
Prince George	152	567	156	27		109	7/2	7, 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
King William									
Manover	100	100	0, 2, -		0, 0, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			1, 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
King & Queen	4100	4100	4, 2, -		4, 8, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			2, 12, 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
King William	630								
Siddlecross	100	700	0, 14, 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		0, 1, 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			13, 12	
Stamond									
Isle of Wight	450	600	0, 12, -		0, 1, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			10, 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
Norfolk	150								
New Kent									
Manover	110	1990	1, 19, 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		0, 2, 11 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			1, 15, 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
King William	1880								
Prince George	250	250	0, 7, -		0, 0, 5 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>			6, 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
Princess Ann	31961	151	19, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		2, 2, 11			28, 15, 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
Ditto	56479	20755		2405 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>		17844 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5/2	46, 2, 2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	
Durvy									
Isle of Wight	125	125	0, 2, 6		0, 0, 0			2, 0	



Forears of Quit Rents for the Year 1725 paid in the Year 1727									
Accomack	...	700	...	168	...	16 $\frac{1}{2}$	151 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	9. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
Henover	...	220	...	50. 6. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	50. 0. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	5. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Yansemund									
Isle of Wight	450	600							
Norfolk	150		50. 12	...	50. 1. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	...	...	10. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	
									£ 1. 6. 4

So that the whole Receipt Amounts to £ 617 $\frac{1}{2}$  - 11 $\frac{1}{2}$



[pm]

The Receiver General doth Discharge himself

By the payment of the following Sums, Out of the Rent Rents.

By His late Majesty's Warrant to Henry Rainsford for his Annuity Ending the 24 <sup>th</sup> of March 1727/8. . . . .	£	509	-	-
By two Warr <sup>ts</sup> to the Commissary for a Years Salary Ending this day . . . . .		109	-	-
By two Warr <sup>ts</sup> to the Attorney Gen <sup>l</sup> for a Year Salary Ending this day . . . . .		69	-	-
By an Allowance to the Receiver General of 5 <sup>l</sup> p <sup>st</sup> ent on £2117.14.9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub> to Enable him to remit the same to London by Bills of Exchange at the common allowance of 15 p <sup>ct</sup> . . . . .		119	2	5 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
By allowance to the Auditor 25 p <sup>ct</sup> on £2895. 17. 12 . . .		144	18	10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
By allowance to the Receiver General on the same Sum . . .		144	18	10 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
So that the Sum Disbursed Amounts to . . . . .	£	1064	-	2
And there will remain due to Balance this Acc <sup>t</sup> . . . . .		5107	-	9 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
	£	6171	-	11 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

John Grymes Rec<sup>d</sup>. Gen<sup>l</sup>



[p. 122] April 25<sup>th</sup> 1728

I have Examined the with Accot of His Majesty's Revenue Commencing the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1727 and ending the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 1728 and have compared every Article with its proper Voucher produced by John Gwynes Esq<sup>r</sup> Receiver General, And find the Charge thereof Amounting to Six Thousand one hundred seventy six Pounds Eleven pence the farthings, and the Discharge to One Thousand sixty nine pounds two pence both truly Stated. So that there is due to His Majesty's Revenue for Ballance of this Accot. Five Thousand one hundred seven Pounds nine pence three farthings Sterling  
Henry Willis D<sup>y</sup> Aud<sup>r</sup>

May 4<sup>th</sup> 1728

The within Accot Compared and Examined by M<sup>r</sup> Henry Willis Deputy Auditor was produced to me in Council & Sworn to by John Gwynes Esq<sup>r</sup> Receiver General.

William Gooch

[p. 123] Endorsed. Virginia / The Treasurer's Account of the Revenue of Quit Rents and 2<sup>d</sup> p<sup>th</sup> / on Tobacco / referred to Maj<sup>r</sup> Gooch's / Letter of 5 June 1728 / Rec<sup>d</sup> 20 July } 1728 / R: 55 & 86. / 12



Endorsed.

Virginia

Recd of Negroes imported from  
the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1727 to the 25<sup>th</sup> March 1728.

Recd with May: Goodrich  
of the 9<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>r</sup> 1728.

Recd Nov: 21<sup>st</sup> }  
Recd } 1728.

R: 91

24

Virginia

Recd of Negroes imported from  
the 29<sup>th</sup> Sept 1727 to the 25<sup>th</sup> of  
March 1728

[see within]

None. No Negroes imported into either of  
this Districts of James River or the Eastern Shore

[see over]  
[157-158]



Port South }  
Potomack } Virginia

{ A List of all Ships & Vessels  
Africa, from the 24<sup>th</sup> of September

Time of Entry	Ships Names	Of what place	Masters Names

Port } An Accot of the Number of Negroes  
Rappah. } Sep. 29. 1727 & Apr. 25. 1728

Time of Entry	Ships Names	Of what Place
	Nil	Nil

Virginia An Accot of all Negroes imported into  
of Africa from Michalmass 1727

Time of Entry	Ships names	of wt place
March 16	Battle Galley	Bristol



that have Imported any Negroes from the Coast of <sup>[p.155]</sup>  
 1727 to the 25<sup>th</sup> of March following

Kind of Built	Tons		Import: by Africa Comp <sup>y</sup>		Import by separate traders	
	By Reg <sup>y</sup>	By Mass <sup>y</sup>	N <sup>o</sup> of Slaves	From whence	N <sup>o</sup> of Slaves	From whence
None	this yr			Thomas Lee Naval Offr		

imp<sup>d</sup> from the Coasts of Africa between <sup>[p.156]</sup>

Masters Names	Number of Negroes imported	
	By the African Comp <sup>y</sup>	By private Traders
Nil	Nil	Nil
	Robert Carter N <sup>o</sup> Offr	joint

the District of York River from the Bout <sup>[p.157]</sup>  
 to Lady day 1728

Masters names	Negros by African Comp <sup>y</sup>	By separate Traders	From whence
David Montgomery	.....	... 211	ballabar

Wil Robertson: Naval Offr



At the Court at S<sup>t</sup> James's

the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February 1725

Present

The Kings most Excell<sup>t</sup> Majesty  
in Council,

Upon reading this day at the Board a  
Report from the Lords of the Committee of His Majesty's  
Most Honorable Privy Council Dated the 14<sup>th</sup> of  
December last in the Words following. Vizt.

" Your Majesty having been pleased by  
" your Order in Council of the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 1727  
" to refer unto this Committee a Report from  
" the Lords Commiss<sup>rs</sup> for Trade and Planta:  
" tions upon the Petition of Colonel Spotswood,  
" late Lieutenant Governor of Your Majesty's  
" Colony of Virginia, praying for a Confirma:  
" tion of his Right to severall Tracts of Land,  
" which he is possessed of, in One of the New Coun:  
" ties in that Colony called Spotsylvania, and for  
" the Remission of Rights and Quit Rents, for the  
" Term of Seven Years, according to what has  
" been granted, to the Takers up of Land there,  
" by an Order of their Excellencies the Lords Jus:  
" tices dated the 6<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>t</sup> 1728 - Their Lord  
" ships have in Obedience to Your Majesty's



41027

" said Order, this day took the said Report  
" into consideration, having / Summomed the  
" Agent for the said Colony to be Present, and  
" heard Colonel Spotswood by his Counsell  
" thereupon, and Do Agree humbly to lay be-  
" fore before <sup>his</sup> your Majesty, the following State  
" of the Case, as it appeared to them Vint.

" That in the Year 1720, the Assembly of  
" Virginia (upon a Discovery of two passes in  
" the great Mountains which lye to the West-  
" ward of the Inhabited part of that Colony)  
" being sensible of the great Consequence it  
" would be to your Majestys Dominion in  
" those parts, to Secure those passes, against  
" the Attempts of the French to possess them-  
" selves thereof, as likewise to prevent the In-  
" cursions of the Northern Indians; past a  
" Law to Erect two New Countys, Stretching  
" from their outward Settlements, so as to take  
" in the said passes, which were to be called  
" the Countys of Brunswick and Spotsylvania, by  
" which Law certain Exemptions and Benefits  
" were granted to Encourage the peopling and  
" Settling the same And at the same time the  
" Assembly Addressed your Majestys late Royall  
" Father to Grant a Remission of the Quit Rents



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" of the said New Countys, for the Term of  
" Ten Years, And for Exempting the Takers  
" up of Lands from the Five Shillings, which  
" they were Obliged to pay, for every Fifty  
" Acres they Entered for.

" Which Address the Lords Justices in Coun-  
" cill, on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>r</sup> 1723, taking into  
" / Consideration, and finding, that it might be <sup>(p. 100)</sup>  
" for the advantage of the Union, and the  
" Security of the Colony, to Encourage the Set-  
" tlement of the said two New Countys; were  
" pleased to Grant an Absolute Remission of  
" the Rights in those Countys, and likewise  
" a Remission of the Quit Rents for the Term  
" of Seven Years, to Commence the 1<sup>st</sup> of May  
" 1721; And at the same time to Order, that  
" no one person whatever, should be allowed to  
" take up more than one thousand Acres of  
" Land in his own or any other Name in Trust  
" for him, in either of the said two New Coun-  
" tys; But as before the making this Order,  
" it had been the practice in Virginia, for  
" persons to be at liberty to take up Lands  
" without Limitation, as to the Quantity of  
" Acres; It therefore happened, that many larger  
" Tracts than 1000 Acres, had been taken up



" by several persons, and more especially in  
" Spotsylvania County, where considerable Un-  
"dertakings were carried on, for raising all man-  
"ner of Naval Stores, pursuant to his late  
" Majesty's Recommendation to Parliament on that  
" behalf, And An Act past for Encouraging  
" the Same; and Col<sup>d</sup> Spotswood being deep-  
"ly Engaged with several other partners  
" for carrying on that Design was possessed  
" of Nine Tracts of Land by patents passed  
" before the Date of the said Order in Coun-  
" cill, making in the whole 55,037 Acres, But  
" two of the said Tracts containing together  
[p. 104] " 59786, Acres of New Land, were not so regular-  
"ly taken up and patented as to give a good  
" Title to them, by reason, that neither Importa-  
" tion Rights were produced according to the  
" Custom of that Colony at passing the Grants,  
" nor was the Consideration Money mention-  
" ed in the patents paid down as usual,  
" nor any Security given for the Same; Altho'  
" it does Appear, that sometime afterwards,  
" he did Offer to Enter into Bonds to become  
" Answerable for the Importation Rights.

" These Defects in the Title of Colonel  
" Spotswood to the said Lands, occasioned this



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humble Application to your Majesty praying  
a Confirmation of the said Grants, And at  
the same time also praying, that the afore-  
mentioned Order in Council, as to the Remis-  
sion of Rights and Quit Rents for the Term  
of Seven Years, may be Extended to his  
said Lands, in regard to his having done  
more than any other Person towards im-  
proving the County

This being the State of the Case, and  
the Agent for the Colony of Virginia not  
Offering on the part of the Government  
there, to Oppose the said Application; And  
their Lordships having considered, that it may  
prove more Advantageous to your Majestys  
Revenue, that the petitioner should con-  
tinue in the possessions of Lands, in which  
he has already made severall Improvements,  
rather than that they should be regranted  
to other persons, who would not in that  
Case, come in so soon to pay your Ma-  
jesty's Quit Rents, as Colonel Spotswood must <sup>[p. 205]</sup>  
of course do, The Remission prayed by him,  
being for Seven Years only from the 1<sup>st</sup> of  
May 1721, which is now expired; And their  
Lordships having considered further, that by



" the progress already made by Colonel Spots-  
" wood for the settling and peopling that  
" bounty, the Lords proposed in securing the  
" passes, against any Attempts of the Indians  
" or others, may be more speedily and ef-  
" fectually answered, by confirming the said  
" Lands to him, than by leaving them to  
" be regranted to other persons, who may not  
" probably be willing, or at least, not in so  
" good a condition, to make such settle-  
" ments & Improvements as are now on foot  
" there particularly with regard to Naval  
" Stores - Their Lordships do therefore Agree  
" humbly to Report as their Opinion to your  
" Majesty, that no Advantage should be taken  
" of the Invalidity of Colonel Spotswoods Grants,  
" but for the better Confirmation of such of  
" them as are Defective, the Governor of Vir-  
" ginia should be Ordered to pass New and  
" Authentick patents to him or his Assigns;  
" And that the Remission of Quit Rents, which  
" by the said Order in Council was granted  
" to the said two New Countys for Seven Years,  
" should be Understood to Extend to the Peti-  
" tioners two Tracts of Land, which were last  
" taken up in the said County of Spotsylvania



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74  
"containing 89,786 Acres; But in regard

"the Petitioner did Offer to be bound to pay

"the Usual Consideration, which is required

"in Virginia upon taking up of Lands.

" / Their Lordships are humbly of Opinion <sup>[prob.]</sup>

"that upon the passing the said Patents

"to the Petitioner or his Assigns, He or they

"should produce or pay the accustomed

"Rights which remain due for the same.

His Majesty taking the said Report into his Royal Consideration, is pleased with the Advice of his Privy Council to Approve thereof, and pursuant to what is therein proposed, to Order as it is hereby Ordered That no Advantage be taken of the Invalidity of the Petitioners Grants, and that for the better confirmation of such of them as are Defective, the Governor or Commander in chief of His Majestys Colony of Virginia for the time being, Do pass New and Authentick Patents to the Petitioner or his Assigns; And that the Remission of Rent Rents which by Order in Council of the 6<sup>th</sup> of Aug<sup>r</sup> 1723 was granted to the said two New Grants for Seven Years, Be understood to Extend to the Petitioners two Tracts of Land, which were last taken up in the said County of Spotsylvania containing Fifty nine thousand seven hundred & eighty Six Acres; But in regard the Petitioner



did Offer to be bound to pay the usuall considera-  
tion which is required in Virginia upon taking  
up of Lands - His Majesty doth hereby further Or-  
der, that upon the passing the said Patents  
to the Petitioner or his Assigns, He or they shall  
produce or pay the accustomed Rights which re-  
main due for the same.

A true Copy  
Temple Stanyan.

<sup>(msol)</sup> Endorsed. Virginia / Copy / Order of Council,  
1<sup>st</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> / 1728-9, upon a Report from / this Board,  
relating to Col<sup>l</sup>. Spotswood's Petiti<sup>o</sup>n for a Confirmat<sup>o</sup>n  
of his Right to several Tracts / of Land in Virginia.  
Rec<sup>d</sup>. March 4<sup>th</sup> 1728-9. / R: 103 / 42  
Read 21



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTS OF GREAT BRITAIN  
Virginia November 6<sup>th</sup> 1728 Op. 2.13.1

My Lords

The Time being now expired wherein his late Majesty was pleased to exempt the Inhabitants of the two frontier Counties of Brunswick and Spotsylvania from the payment of Quit Rents; there appear very great difficulties in forming the Rent Roll of those Counties occasioned by some former resolutions in the time of Governor Drysdale's Administration, and upon which no positive Directions have yet been received from your Lordships. for I find in the Minutes of Council of the 23<sup>d</sup> of April 1724 an Order to the Officers of the Revenue not to demand either the Rights or Quit Rents for Lands granted in those Counties from their first Creation to that time, lest the Acceptance of such Payments should be construed an Allowance & Approbation of some large Grants of Land, which were then judged to be made contrary to his Majesty's intentions. According to this Resolution I find that the Officers of the Revenue have hitherto made no demand of the Quit Rents for any of those great Tracts of Land, which have been held by the Patentees for six or seven years past, and that they have even thought themselves obliged to refuse the Quit Rents of such Lands when tendered by the present Possessors; to which they have been the



rather determined, by a Paragraph in your Lordships letter to Mr Drysdale of the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 1726. wherein your Lordships are pleased to intimate; that as Col: Spotswood had petitioned his Majesty upon the subject of those Grants, You were willing to wait sometime before you signified your thoughts upon that matter.

This being the last intimation received from your Lordships on this subject, I thought fit, taking the Advice of the Council, to wait your Lordships further pleasure before any Demand be <sup>(paid)</sup> made of those Quit Rents. / I shal not take upon Me to offer my own Sentiments in an Affair which has been so long under the consideration of your Lordships, and wherein I understand the Kings Council have been consulted in point of Law: But I shal beg leave to say that tho the Persons who first took up those large Tracts of Land upon the supposition that the King would grant all that the Assembly petitioned for, were in the wrong to proceed so far without his Majestys Approbation; yet I am credibly informed that without taking up those large Tracts upon which great improvements were necessary to be made, those Counties would not have been settled so speedily as they have been, and



much of that Land which has been suted in small Parcels would in all probability have remained to this day desolate, as may be seen in the County of Brunswick, which having but few great Tracts of Land taken up in it by Men of Substance, hath advanced very little in the number of its Inhabitants in proportion to the other County, Spotsylvania, where the greatest Tracts have been granted & possessed, and thereby given encouragement to the meaner sort of People to seat themselves as it were under the Shade & Protection of the Greater.

By this method of reasoning I am led to think, that there is some favour due to those who have thus adventured to promote the Settlement of those new Frontiers; but whether his Majesty will think fit to extend his Bounty to them in easing them of paying for their Rights, which still remain unsatisfied, or in any other Exemption in respect to their Quit Rents must depend on what your Lordships shall think proper to represent to his Majesty in their favour: though I must beg leave to offer my Opinion, that the discharging them from the payment of the Rights would be the most reasonable, as it puts them on an equal foot with the rest of the Inhabitants



of these Bounties who have lesser portions of Land; and the payment of their Quit Rents only from the time of their Grants would ballance the advantage they have had over others in taking up those great Tracts, when these have been confined to one Thousand Acres ~~only~~ exempt from both Payments. There is one consideration more which weighs much with me, and makes me wish that some Indulgence may be allowed in the matter of the Rights, and that is, to prevent abundance of Law Suits which will arise on the Bonds taken for those Rights, which, however they may be determined, cannot but create discontents & murmuring where so many People's Interests are concerned. And if Col. Spotswood <sup>[p. 218]</sup> in regard to the great expence he has been at on his Settlement, and the misfortunes attending his Undertakings ever since, has the good luck to receive any particular mark of his Majesty's favour, Your Lordships will give me leave to hope that the same Bounty will be extended to the other Patentees, who have also laid out considerable Sums in Seating & Improving their several Tracts.

I have to add that whatever his Majesty's pleasure may be in this Matter, I beg of your



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PARLIAM. OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
Lordships a speedy signification thereof, that  
the Officers of the Revenue may no longer re-  
main in suspense, and that the People may  
know what they have to expect.

I shal not trouble your Lordships with  
any other affairs relating to this Government,  
until I have an opportunity to send the  
Journals of the Council, this being intended for  
an out Port Ship, and I presume but an un-  
certain conveyance. I am with the greatest Duty  
& Respect

My Lords

Your Lordships

Most faithful and most  
obedient humble Servant  
William Gooch

Endorsed. Virginia / See from Majr Gooch, <sup>[p. 16.]</sup>  
Lieut / Govr of Virginia, dated 6: Novr 1728. / desiring  
the Board's Directions in relation / to the Payment  
of Quit Rents in the / two new Counties, now that the  
time / is expired, for which the Inhabitants /  
were exempted. / <sup>Recd April 2<sup>d</sup> 1729.</sup> / <sup>Read May 16<sup>th</sup></sup> / R: 105 / 45.



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
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To the Right Honorable the Lords <sup>(p. 117)</sup>

Commissioners of Trade and Plantations.

My Lords

In Obedience to your Lordships Commands  
Signified to me by Mr. Popple's Letter of the 8<sup>th</sup> of Octob<sup>r</sup>.  
I have perused and considered an Act lately passed in  
Virginia Entituled an Act for Laying a Duty on Slaves  
Imported and for appointing a Treasurer; And I beg  
Leave to Observe to your Lordships that the first Act  
of this kind which met with an Opposition from the  
Merchants of Great Britain was passed in the Year  
1723 And Said the same duty of 40<sup>s</sup> a head upon  
all Negroes imported into Virginia.

That Act I find underwent a Long Consideration  
and upon the 29<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1723/4 your Lordships made a  
Report thereon to His Maj<sup>ty</sup> Stating some former Acts  
Laying a duty of 5<sup>s</sup> p<sup>er</sup> head from 1710 to 1718 which the  
Merchants did not Complain of thinking the Colony  
of Virginia would soon find the Ill Effects of such  
an Act which they did, for from the Year 1718 to 1723  
no Act was passed Laying a duty on the Importa-  
tion of Negroes,

And your Lordships are of Opinion that tho<sup>o</sup>  
the duty laid by the said Act in 1723 was much less  
than the former, yett the same must be attended  
with Ill consequences and would discourage the



planting and Cultivating Naval Stores Especial in the Two new Counties where great Numbers of Negroes would be wanting and where His Majesty had thought fit to remitt the payment of any Quit Rents for Seven Years to Encourage the Settling and planting the Same —

For which reasons and Considering the said Duty was laid on the Importer by which the Trade of Great Britains would be Affected, Your Lordships reported the said Act was proper to be repealed and that the Assembly might pass a new Law not liable to the said Objections to raise the necessary Supplies for which the said Act was designed

The said Act with the Report of Your Lordships being referred to a Committee of Council the 17<sup>th</sup> April 1724 They made their Report stating the Facts in the same manner with Your Lordships and giving their Opinion thereon in the same words with this Addition that His Majestys pleasure should be signified to the Governor of Virginia that he did <sup>(p. 30)</sup> not on any pretence / whatever presume to give his Assent to any Acts of that kind for the future without Inserting a Clause to suspend its taking Effect till his Majesties pleasure should be known thereon pursuant to which Report 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1724



73  
by Order in Council of this date His Majesty declared His disallowance of the said Act and repealed the same and further ordered the Governor of Virginia not to presume for the future on any pretence whatever to Assent to any Act of this kind without inserting such a Clause as abovementioned

I find by the Governor of Virginias Instructions he is particularly required not to pass any Bill wherein the Trade or Shipping of this Kingdome is any ways Affected unless a Clause be inserted therein Suspending the Execution thereof untill His Majestys pleasure be received thereon

I must acquaint Your Lordships that there is a Clause in this Act Suspending the Execution of it till His Maj<sup>ty</sup>s pleasure is known; But I humbly apprehend for the following reasons that this Act is not fit to be passed into Law.

1<sup>st</sup> - In regard to the great prejudice Virginia <sup>itself</sup> may sustain thereby for as this Colony can not Subsist or be improved without the planters are furnished with large and constant supplies of Negroes and at the easiest Rates so it cannot be supposed that the Merchants will so readily and freely Import them while they are clogged with duties which raise the Value of them and



discourage their sending a sufficient number to the colony or at least disable them from settling at such easy rates as they might otherwise do; And I am informed Experience has shewn the fatal consequences attending a Duty on Negroes, for from 1710 to 1718 when there was a Duty on them the Number of Negroes Imported into Virginia during these 8 years was very inconsiderable and those few sold at excessive prices, so that laying a duty on Negroes can only tend to make them Scarcer and Dearer the Two things that for the good of our Trade and for the Benefit of Virginia ought chiefly to be guarded against, since it is well known that the cheapness of Virginia Tobacco in European Markets is the true Cause of the great Consumption thereof in Europe, And one would have therefore Expected rather to have seen an Act allowing a premium on the importation of Negroes to have encouraged the bringing them in than an Act laying so large a duty to discourage their Importation

<sup>344</sup>  
2 - As it affects Great Britain the Mother Country  
[p. 29] to Virginia in regard to y<sup>e</sup> revenues of Great Britain and the Dependancy of Virginia - That it affects the Revenue of Great Britain is shewn by the foregoing reasons for if Negroes will by this Act be rendered Scarcer and Dearer as I apprehend is very



clear It must then of necessity follow that their Annual  
small Brops of Tobacco must grow Less and Less  
for want of a Sufficient supply of Negroes the Number  
of Hogsheads Imported must decrease and the  
Revenue arising from this Head be greatly reduced.  
That this Act is inconsistent with the Dependancy of  
Virginia on Great Britain I take to be clear from con-  
sidering that these Negroes are purchased by the  
British Merchants that they are bought on the Coast  
of Africa in Exchange of our own Manufactures Im-  
ported from Great Britain to the Coast of Africa  
for that purpose and therefore for Virginia to lay  
a Duty on Negroes so purchased and brought to  
them is the same thing as Laying a Duty on the  
Importation of British Manufactures for the Obstruct-  
ing the Importation of Negroes is in Effect the same  
as if they Obstructed the Importation of British  
Manufactures.

All which is humbly Submitted by

My Lords

Your Lordships most

Obedient faithfull humble

Servant

(auto) Fran: Jare

December the 10<sup>th</sup> 1725



(p. 220) Endorsed. Virginia. / Mr. James Report upon /  
an Act passed at Virginia / 30<sup>th</sup> March 1728, for  
laying / a Duty on Slaves Imported, / &c. /  
Objections. / Recd Decem<sup>r</sup>: 10<sup>th</sup> } 1728. / R: 106 /  
Read May 21: 1729 }



My Lords

(p. 221)

As I have met with no proper Opportunity of writing to your Lordships for some Months past, I gladly lay hold of the first Conveyance by the Ship Randolph of London, to transmit to your Lordships the Council Journals from the 13<sup>th</sup> of June last, with other publick Occurrences since that Time.

I shall first take notice of the Feuds which have lately arisen between two of our Tributary Indian Nations, the Nottaways & the Saponis, occasioned by Murders committed on some of each Nation, whereof they accuse One another, and both were obliged to apply to the Government for Justice: But upon a strict Examination at two Councils, the 16<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>d</sup> of August, at which both Nations were present, no such discovery could be made as to amount to a legal Proof, whereon to convict or punish either of the Parties. Notwithstanding this, it ~~was~~ was in vain to remonstrate to these Savages the Justice of our Laws which permit no Man to be punished without due proof of his Guilt: Their Notions of Justice were not to be adapted to that Rule: Revenge was what both sides wanted: And because they were forbid all Hostility, and were told that this Matter should still be pursued & enquired into by us, they seem'd resolved to take



satisfaction their own way, expressing great  
resentment against the English for not concurring  
with them therein; so that I every day expect  
to hear of an Encounter between them, which  
will certainly happen, whenever they meet in their  
Hunting. If this was all, your Lordships must  
give me leave to say, I should be little concerned  
at the Event: But as our Frontier Inhabitants  
lie at the same time exposed to the barbarous  
Insults of these Indians, and the foreign Nations  
they call in to their Aid, this in all probability  
will involve us in continual Skirmishes & Alarms  
with them; And in November last about a dozen  
Families of our outward Inhabitants were, with  
Buns & Arrows forced by them from their Hab-  
itations, to which however they soon returned. Be-  
sides this, we are in no small danger from  
our Slaves, (at least we ought to Guard against  
them) an Instance whereof happen'd this Winter  
in Prince George County, where a number of them  
being got together in a riotous manner, threatn'd  
the Officer, who executing the Laws seized some  
& dispersed the Rest, for which his Barn the  
night following was burnt down. For my Lords  
are these all our Fears, the secret Robberies and  
other villainous Attempts of a more pernicious



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

Brew of transported Slaves, are yet more intoller-  
able; witness the Dwelling House & Out houses of Mr  
Thomas Lee which in the night time were sett  
on fire by these Villains, and in an instant burnt  
to the ground, a young white Woman burnt in her  
bed, the Gentleman his Wife & three Children very  
providentially getting out at a Window, with  
nothing but their Shifts & Shirts on their backs,  
which was all they saved, not two minutes before  
the House fell in. And this was done by these  
Rogues, because, as a Justice of the Peace, upon  
complaint made to him, he had granted a War-  
rent for apprehending of some of them. They are  
not yet discovered: In consideration of this Gentle-  
man's misfortune, which he is not well able to  
bear, and as it arises from the discharge of his  
duty as a Magistrate, I have been prevailed upon  
to interceed with your Lordships, that his Case  
may be recommended to his Majesty, for his royal  
Pounty of two or three hundred Pounds towards  
lessening his Loss, which was the more consider-  
able by a very good Collection of Books.]

To provide my Lords in the only way I can  
against these Dangers, I thought it proper <sup>(p. 272.)</sup> to  
look narrowly into the State of the Militia, and have  
been surprized to find that after so much care



taken in framing of Laws to Arm & Train a Militia  
fit for service, so little regard hath been had to  
the only thing which could render them usefull;  
for to no purpose are Men obliged to provide them-  
selves with Arms & Ammunition, and to attend the  
Musters at Stated times, or to be ready to March  
whenever Danger calls them out, if when they  
are got together scarce one Officer knows how to form  
them or how to instruct them in the use & exercise  
of those Arms they bring with them. The Council  
were all of them sensible of this Defect, and of the  
Dangers which threatens us; And desired me to ap-  
point an Adjutant to put the Militia into a proper  
method of Discipline, which I have accordingly  
done, constituting a Gentleman they recommended  
who is a very Active and an understanding Man,  
and no doubt will merit the Salary of £150 Annus  
which the Council the 2<sup>d</sup>. of November judged reason-  
able to allow him for his trouble. He is now employ'd  
in teaching the Officers in those Counties most ex-  
posed to danger, and I hope by this means to bring  
all the Militia of the Colony into such an uniform  
and regular method of Exercise, as to be a sufficient  
Guard against all the Attempts of Indians, or the  
intestine Insurrections of Slaves & Convicts. And as  
I weigh'd the Arguments on all sides, even that



whereby it may be thought dangerous to make men too knowing in Military Matters, and opposed to it, the Loyalty & Fidelity of the Inhabitants to his present most excellent Majesty, and that they are engaged by Interest as well as Affection to Great Britain, as also, that it was agreeable to my 96<sup>th</sup> Instruction, I could not resist the reasonableness & necessity of it, point of Time admitting of no delay, and hence promise my self that your Lordships will approve of the Allowance given to this new Officer, as an Expence highly requisite, and a prudent Application of his Majesty's Revenue.

It was but a little time my Lords before the last General Court that I had the honor to receive his Majesty's Instructions, to which my Commission refers. On the perusal of them I found that Mr. Fitzwilliams, who on his Appointment to the Office of Surveyor General of the Customs in the Southern District of America, had also been constituted of the Council of Virginia, as well as Jamaica & South Carolina, was not named with the others in my Instructions. However, as he still continues to Act in that Post which at first gave him a pretension to be of the Council, I thought it improper to lay him aside, and although his Letter is not renewed, he still keeps his Seat at



our Board. But my Lords the Council are of opinion, and it seems have been all along, that he has no title to sit as judge of the General Courts; the Right he claims the privilege by, is taken from a Law of this Country which appoints the Council the judges; but then they say, that the Law can mean only those whose Names are in his Majesty's Instructions, the Gentlemen of the Country, that have Estates here, who in truth are thought by every Body the only fit Persons to judge of the Property of Others. Out of regard to Order & Quiet, I am under the necessity of troubling your Lordships with this Dispute, and I hope for a decision from your Lordships which will prevent for the future an Altercation which hath sometime subsisted.

The Commissioners appointed for settling the Boundaries between this Colony & North Carolina having finished that tedious & troublesome Affair, occasioned by thick Woods & Rivers they were obliged to pass, I have herewith sent your Lordships their Report with the Plans of the Line as it is now run & marked out. Your Lordships will find, (for which there is a Protest & an Answer) that after the Commissioners of Carolina had gone with ours a certain distance beyond their own



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE PARLIAM. OFFICE

Inhabitants, they refused to proceed any farther,  
/urging several reasons which I think little to the <sup>(p. 112)</sup> purpose, and might with equall force have been insisted on before they went so far; but - one of our Commissioners concurring with them, they returned to Carolina, and M<sup>r</sup>. Fitzwilliams came back, leaving M<sup>r</sup>. Byrd & M<sup>r</sup>. Wandridge to discharge the more difficult part of the Duty, which they continued to do for six Weeks after the separation, in which time they finished the remaining part of the Line up to the great Mountains; And I dare to answer for it, with such exactness, (as the Surveyors were bound by Oath to do) that I hope it will be allowed to be of equal Validity with that part of the Boundary in which all Parties were present. It remains that I beg your Lordships directions how the expence of this Work shall be paid: [I find that the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> & Surveyors sent out in 1711 on the same Service, were paid out of the Quit Rents by a Warrant from the Treasury, and though they were then out only one month, the Commissioners had one hundred Pounds Sted each and the Surveyors 20<sup>l</sup>. *per diem* a Man; And the present Gentl<sup>men</sup> expect a proportionable Allowance, and they that concluded the Line think and are thought to deserve



more than he that left them and came home. There are also sundry considerable charges for Men & Provisions, some with Arms for their Guard, Chain carriers, Markers and other necessary Attendants. As these could not wait till their Payment was directed from England, that, and the charge of the Provisions have been advanced out of the 2<sup>d</sup>. part the whole will be above 1000<sup>l</sup>. I hope to receive your Lordships signification of his Majesty's pleasure both as to the Quantities to be allowed to the several Gentlemen, and the Fund for payment thereof. two Commiss<sup>rs</sup> & two Surveyors were out sixteen Weeks and one Commiss<sup>r</sup> about nine Weeks.]

I have already written to your Lordships so fully on the subject of the Spotsylvania Lands mentioned in the Journal of the 2<sup>d</sup>. of November in a letter dated the 6<sup>th</sup>. of the same Month, that I shall now only send a Duplicate of that Letter, and pray your Lordships speedy direction therein, for every delay will increase the difficulty both on the Officers of the Revenue & the Patentees.

I have also sent your Lordships the Copy of a Letter which sets forth the reasons for repealing the Clause which prohibits the importation of striped Tobacco; And the Dispositions of the Master of a Ship taken by a Pirate, much about that time



the same Pirate took another Ship which is gone to Maryland in the Lat. of 30:00 North-west of Bermuda about 30 Leagues.

On the death of Peter Beverly Esq<sup>r</sup>. one of the Council, I take this first opportunity to recommend to your Lordships to fill up that Vacancy, Ed. Henry Harrison whom I formerly introduced to your Lordships as a Gentleman in all respects qualified for that Trust. And the following Names are such as by my O<sup>th</sup>. Instruction I am required to transmit, men firmly attach'd to his present most excellent Majesty of good Life, Estates & Abilities. Henry Armistead, John Jones, David Bray, John Taylor, Edwin Worbin, William Cole, Henry Fitzhugh, Armistead Churchill, David Meriwether, Francis Willis, Robert Carter, John Lewis. I hope no Application will prevail with your Lordships to recommend any Persons that is not named in this List; I have reason to suspect that some may offer themselves, who are not so well known at Home as they are here; but as I am not forward in giving of Characters, I shal content my self with cautioning your Lordships against Mr Thomas Worbin only. My Nomination is no otherwise out of favour or affection to their Persons than as they are good men; and I am under no one Obligation to prefer



<sup>(p. 222)</sup> any of them, besides what their Merit and my Duty to my Sovereign engage me to.

About two Months since a Ship of 150 Tunn bound to Maryland was lost coming in at the Capes, which could not have hapined had there been a Lighthouse: but as that Project is like to come to nothing, your Lordships must give me leave to say, that 'tis meer obstinacy in our Neighbours, and those Merchants that opposed it, who have and will suffer by the want of it. Nor was there the last year, nor is there this, one Captain of his Majesty's Ships, or Master of a Merchant Ship, but what finds the want of it, and is sensible of the great service it would be to the Shipping. This my Lords I enquired into before I proposed it to the Assembly, and was led to it by my own observation & Experience, having been obliged when I came into the Country after making the Land, but not discovering the Capes, to keep out at sea all that Night, by which we very narrowly escaped being taken.

I hope your Lordships will put a favourable construction upon what I have the honour now to report to your Lordships; for 'tis a faithful Declaration that I make, when I tell your Lordships I have no other views than with great



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
Integrity to discharge my Duty to his Majesty,  
and if could be under a greater Obligation, it  
must & would arise from the Ambition I have  
of being with the greatest Respect

My Lords

Your Lordships

most dutifull most faithful  
and most obedient humble Servant

William Gooch

Endorsed. Virginia / Letter to the Lords of Trade  
Dated March 26<sup>th</sup> 1729 from / Maj<sup>r</sup> Gooch Lt Gov<sup>r</sup>  
of Virginia / <sup>Recd</sup>  
Read } June 5: 1729

Also Endorsed. Virginia / Letter from Maj<sup>r</sup>  
Gooch / Lt Gov<sup>r</sup> of Virginia Dated 26<sup>th</sup> of March  
1729. / <sup>Recd</sup>  
Read } June 5: 1729 / R: 107 / 52



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A Journal of the Proceedings of the Commissioners<sup>(p. 105)</sup>  
for settling the Bounds betwixt Virginia and Carolina

March 5<sup>th</sup>

The Commissioners on the part of Virginia after a fatiguing journey of 7 days arrived punctually at the North Shoar of Corotuck Inlet about noon. In less than 2 hours they were joined by Col. Hale & Col. Mosely two of the Commissioners for Carolina. However they could not go upon any business for want of the Carolina Commission, which was in the hands of the other Commissioners, who came not hither till late the next day.

b. The Surveyors in the mean time employed themselves in taking the bearings of the Coast, & the Islands adjacent. According to the most exact observation they found the Latitude to be 36 degrees 31 minutes. About 5 in the afternoon M<sup>r</sup>. Lovick and M<sup>r</sup>. Little the other Commissioners for Carolina arrived. Immediately the Commission of each Side being read, it was agreed that each Party should deliver a copy thereof to the other. It was also moved by the Virginia Commissioners, that those for Carolina should produce their Instructions: but they excused themselves by saying, what Instructions they had related to those matters only, which the Commissioners on the part of Virginia were expressly forbid to treat



upon. Then a debate arose concerning the place where they ought to begin, the Commissioners for Carolina were strenuous for beginning at the Point of High Land, because they said the former Commissioners had agreed to begin there: But those on the part of Virginia insisting that the Spit of Land stretching from thence to the Inlet, was properly the North Shoar, it was at last consented to by those of Carolina, with only a small allowance of about two hundred yards, which was proved to be gained since the Proposals had been signed by the Governors Spotswood & Eden. At night the Surveyors discovered the Variation to be 3 degrees West by a Meridian taken from the North Star.

7. This morning the Commissioners ordered that a Post should be drove deep in the Sand at the place of beginning. From thence they ran the Line due West allowing 3 degrees for the variation, which it seems the former Commissioners had not done. The Line cross'd Dansiers Island, and thence into Notts Island, over a narrow part of the Sound, which they pass'd in two Pinnas hired at the Landing of Northwest River. In the Evening they encamp'd on the East Side of Notts Island, on the Plantation of William Harding



which was cut by the Line.

8. They proceeded with the line thro' the High land of Notts Island, which exceeded not half a mile. Then they entered a large Marsh, which was very wet & stony extending as far as a Water called back-bay. This they crossed by the help of a Currier sent round for that purpose, and then crossed over another Marsh to the high land of Princess Ann County. It is to be observed that Notts Island is improperly so call'd, being only a Peninsula the water not surrounding it but at very high Tides, when the Marsh is overflowed. We encamp'd on John Heath's Plantation, a little to the Southward of the Line at the mouth of North River.

March<sup>9</sup>. The Line was continued thro' Ongland's Plantation to the East bank of North River: This the Surveyors pass'd in a Perianga and cross'd over Webb's Marsh near a mile in breadth to the high land. Soon after they were interrupted by a Pocoson made quite impassable by beaver Damms and Otter holes. On this account they were oblig'd to make a Traverse in order to make good their Line without going thro' this impracticable Place. The day's work ended about a mile and three quarters to the Northward of Christopher Merchants house, not far from North-west River. In this Field the Commissioners and



camp, correcting by a great fire the bad air occasioned by a Swamp which encompassed it.

10<sup>th</sup> This being Sunday we rested in our camp, but Mr Fountain being left at Northwest Landing with the hopes of baptizing a great many Children we had no sermon

11<sup>th</sup> The Line was carried on about 3 miles thro' high land, and afterwards almost 2 miles thro' Swamp & Pocoson full of beaver dams and Otter holes, into which some of the men plung'd up to their middle. This unpleasant day's work ended at the mouth of Northern's Creek, which discharges itself into Northwest River. But we encamp'd a little higher up the River near a deserted house belonging to Capt Willis Willson. This was for the benefit of shelter from the rain which not only threatened us but fell plentifully in the Night

12<sup>th</sup> [p. 103] The Surveyors took the Course of North-west River, then Crossed from the mouth of Northern's Creek, and carry'd on the Line 3 miles thro' Marsh and high Land, cutting Several Plantations. At night we encamp'd on Robt Ballance's Plantation, a little way to the Southward of Northwest River bridge, having first discharg'd the 2 Periaugus we had provided to transport us over the many Waters we had occasion to pass in this difficult part of our business



13. The Line was continued 3 miles farther thro' the Woods, which were full of Briers and Hall-bushes, as far as the East Side of the Dismal, or great Desert. 'Tis hardly Credible how little the bordering Inhabitants were acquainted with this Swamp, tho' most of them had lived all their lives within Sight of it. They were positive it was not above Six or eight miles to the other Side, yet none of them so much as pretended they had ever passed it. This was therefore the best information we could gain of a Desert so unknown, but in order to be better acquainted with it, we made the necessary disposition to enter it the next morning. We allotted for this Service Mr. Maye Mr. Irwin and Mr. Swan with 12 Men, so many being thought necessary for Clearing the way, for the Chain, for marking, and Carrying the luggage. The men were so desirous to be of this number, that 'twas thought proper to determine their Chance by lot. This night we took up our Quarters at Mr. Wilkins's house, about a mile from the place where the Surveyors left off.

14 By nine this Morning the Provisions, Bedding, &c were made up into Packs for the Men to carry into the Dismal. They victualled for eight days, which we judged sufficient to carry them thro'



this inhospitable place. Nor indeed could more  
be carry'd without making the Luggage too  
troublesome for the men. As it was, their Loads  
were from 40 to 70 pounds weight a man which  
was full enough to bear thro' grounds hardly pass-  
able without any burthen at all. However the  
Men carry'd them cheerfully, and for their bet-  
ter Encouragement, some of the Commissioners went  
with them half a mile into the Dismal. The  
ground was wet & boggy, full of tall Reeds, every  
where interlaced with Briars, which hampered the  
feet very much. Two men went before to clear  
an opening for the Surveyors, and enable them  
to take their Sight. At the end of half a mile,  
they came to a small Island of high Land  
about one hundred yards over. Here the Commis-  
sioners recommending Vigour and Constancy to the  
Men returned, and the Surveyors proceeded with their  
Line one mile farther, in all one mile and a half.  
The ground continued much the same, only some  
part of it was overgrown with Gall-bushes, and the  
Trees which grew here & there amongst them were  
generally Byppresses.

While the Surveyors were thus engaged in the  
Dismal, the Commissioners in order to meet them  
on the West Side, having sent away the Luggage



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DEPARTMENT  
9.  
followed it to Capt. James Wilsons. Here we had left the horses and some of the men to look after them, when we embarked on the Periauges for Corrotouck.

15.<sup>th</sup> The Surveyors proceeded to run the line in the Diomal, but the ground being wet, and thicker set with Reeds Briars and Gall-bushes than they found it yesterday, it was impossible after a long days work to go further than one mile, 15 chains and an half. Another great hindrance proceeded from Trees blown down, which lay crossing one another, with sharp Snaggs pointing every way, and requiring great Caution to get over them. These Trees were generally Cypressess which are easily blown down in this Wet place, as indeed all other Trees are, because there is no firm Earth for the roots to shoot into. In the mean time the Commissioners in their way round marched to Timothy Ines's with the Horses & Baggage in whose Field they pitched their Tent.

16.<sup>th</sup> The Surveyors ran their line one mile & a half & 8 chains. The greater part of the ground was Juniper Swamp with very thick underwoods and fallen Trees piled upon another. The water here was found a little purgative by some of



the People, from too strong a tincture it had received from the juniper roots. In the Evening they came upon another small piece of High-Sand, which was the more convenient, because about 8 a Clock it began to rain, which would have rendered the low part of the Swamp a very uncomfortable lodging. The Commissioners went this night to Mr Andrew Meads where they met with very generous entertainment.

17<sup>th</sup> This being Sunday the Commissioners halted at Mr Meads, where Mr Fortain gave them a sermon. It rained very hard in the morning which gave them great concern for their friends in the Dismal. However it had no other ill effect upon the Surveyors, but by hindering them from carrying on the Line, for which they had a Dispensation notwithstanding it was Sunday because it was really a work of necessity; but the Rain had made everything so wet, that it saved them their labour, tho' not their Provisions.

18<sup>th</sup> The Surveyors fell to work with fresh Vigour and finding the grounds a little better suited on the Line 2 miles and 19 Chains. In the afternoon their Industry received some check from a juniper Swamp very difficult to pass. In the mean time the Commissioners marched round to Mr Speights's in hopes to meet with some intelligence. But instead of that Mr Speights was positive the Dismal could not be



REPRODUCED FROM THE COLLECTIONS OF THE MANUSCRIPT DIVISION  
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less than 20 miles over in that part of it where the  
surveyors were to pass. This would have been dread-  
ful news had that Person had any Rule to judge by  
better than Conjecture. For neither he nor any other  
had ever made trial of the Distance. At night we  
ordered guns to be fired on the Edge of the Dismal,  
and a drum to be beaten to give notice to the Survey-  
ors, (in case they were within hearing) that they were  
not far from Land. And likewise that by answer-  
ing our Signal, we might have notice of their  
approach. But no such good Report was heard from  
thence.

19<sup>th</sup> The Commissioners ordered men both to the  
Northward and the Southward to fire more Guns  
on the Side of the Dismal, who could hear none in  
return. Many People came to Mr. Sprights to satis-  
fy their Curiosity, and brought many Children to  
be baptiz'd: but none of them could tell any good  
tydings of the Surveyors. Nor was it possible they  
should, because they were still in the midst of the  
Desert. They ran this day a mile and 6 chains  
thro' a terrible Juniper Swamp, where the ground was  
very Soft, and the passage interrupted by a multi-  
tude of fallen trees. Towards the Evening they  
fancy'd they heard 4 Guns to the Northward of  
their bourse, by which they flattered themselves



that they were not far from Land.

20. The Surveyors proceeded a mile & 64 chains thro' the same Juniper Swamp, only the trees were thicker & smaller, by which 'tis probable that this part of the Desert may have been formerly burnt, by the Spreading of the Fire which is often made on the Skirts of it by the bordering Inhabitants. While the Surveyors were thus employed, the Commissioners who remained at Mr. Speight's, were in great pain for them, and the rather because they knew their Provisions must be near spent. Men were continually dispatcht upwards and downwards to fire Guns & make enquiry, but could gain no Intelligence.

21. The Surveyor began to be allarm'd with Famine, and not without reason, for their Provisions grew very scanty, nor could they discern any marks of being near Land. They had seen neither Bird nor Beast since their entrance into this barren Wilderness, to Supply their Wants, nor so much as an Insect or a Reptile. This must proceed from the Moisture of the ground, and the everlasting Shade, which hinders the friendly Beams of the Sun from warming it. These considerations determin'd them to abandon the line for the present, and make the best of their way out.



according to this resolution they marcht early in the morning and Steard due west as near as they cou'd by the Sun. At night they computed their journey to be 5 or 6 miles, which was a great way considering the badness of the ground. It was all Juniper Swamp, so difficult and perplex, that if the People had not traveled for their lives they cou'd hardly have reacht so far. However they had the Comfort in the Evening of hearing the dogs bark and the battle howe, which made them forget the fatigues of the foregoing day. In the meantime the Commissioners receiving no news of their approach were exceedingly uneasy.

22 The Surveyors pursued their journey early in the morning, being Encouraged by the good men of Seeing Crows fly over their heads, and in an hour found themselves among Pines, soon after they waded thro' a deep Swamp extending a full mile in breadth, and taking the men almost up to the knees. After this about 10 in the morning they had the pleasure of recovering firm land, and immediately repaired to Peter Drinkly's house to Satisfy the importunity of their Stomachs. In the afternoon M<sup>r</sup>. Swan brought the Commissioners the joyfull news of their arrival in perfect health, This was the more fortunate, because



Several of the men had been troubled with Fluxes and small fevers during their stay in the Dismal. They all came to Mr. Speight's in the Evening.

23. It was necessary for the Surveyors and the men who had shared in their fatigue to rest themselves, and prepare to enter the Dismal again on Monday, in order to bring the Line quite thro' it.

24. This being Sunday a large Congregation flocked to Mr. Speight's from the adjacent Parts to hear a sermon and get their Children baptiz'd. In the afternoon the People who were to re-enter the Dismal were furnish'd with Provisions, and sent under the direction of Mr. Mayo & Mr. Swan to Peter Brinklys, that they might be ready next morning to enter upon their business without loss of time.

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March 25

These Surveyors with the Chain and Burthen carriers returned into the Dismal with great alacrity, and by the help of the path they had made in coming out, arrived at the place where the Line had been discontinued. Here they lay as they had every night before, in that mirey Place, upon Juniper bark, over which they spread their Blankets. The water was so near the Surface, that if a fire was kindled, so soon as the Crust was burnt thro', which commonly happen'd in half an hour, it sunk into a hole and was



extinguished. In the meantime the Commissioners continued at Mr. Speight's till their return, not without a great deal of impatience.

26 The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Fortain should make a journey to Eden Town to give the Inhabitants a sermon, and Christian their children. This seemed the more expedient, because there is not a Minister in the whole Province of North Carolina.

27. This morning we apprehended rain, but it blew over again to the great comfort of the Surveyors and People who were still labouring in the Dismal.

28 The Surveyors this Evening finish'd the Line thro' the Desert having in 5 days proceeded five miles. This made the whole distance over it to be  $\frac{1}{15}$  miles in that part which is supposed <sup>(p. 113)</sup> to be its Breadth, while the length which extends from North to South is conjectured to be double that distance. after the Surveyors had carry'd the Line 25 chain up into the high Land, they dispatch'd a messenger to the Commissioners at Mr. Speight's, to receive their orders, which were to proceed with the Line the next morning. They came out of the Dismal not far to the North of Peter Brinkley's

29<sup>th</sup> The Surveyors having by order of the Commissioners



Set up a Post in the great Road where the Line cut it, expressing the Bounds betwixt the two Colonys, proceeded one mile & 15 Chains, wading over a Mill Swamp which took them above the River.

30. The Surveyors continued the Line 6 mile & 35 chains. They found the Woods pretty clear, and interrupted by very little Swamp or wet ground. Several Posts were set up in the Roads thro' which the Line past to shew the Bounds. At night they took up their Quarters at Richard Parkers House standing about a third of a mile to the South of the Line.

31. It rained a little this morning, but this day being Sunday it gave no interruption to the Business. All the Inconvenience of it was that it lessened St. Fontains Congregation.

April 1.<sup>st</sup> The Surveyors being now got upon High-Sand they proceeded with their Line Eleven miles & three quarters and 15 Chains. They left Somerton Wharfe near two miles in Virginia, and ran to the East Side of Somerton Creek. They cut thro' William Speights Plantation, taking the Tobacco House into Carolina, and leaving the Dwelling House in Virginia. This has been the Case of several other People in the Course of this Survey.

2. The Surveyors passd Somerton-Creek, and



Continued the Line three quarters of a mile, 12 Chains & 30 links to the banks of Black-water River. Thence they cut about half a mile to the Northward of the mouth of Nottaway River, which agreed to half a minute with the <sup>[p. 112]</sup> observation made formerly by M<sup>r</sup>. Sawson. He had made the Latitude of the mouth of Nottaway River to be  $36^{\circ} : 30'$ , and our Line made it  $36.30^{\circ}$  which was but a small difference. However according to His Majesty's order, the Surveyors came down Blackwater River and ran a due West line from the middle of the mouth of Nottaway. This River they crossed just above the mouth, where it turns off to the Northward, and carry'd on the Line about half a mile thro' a deep Pocoson, to an Indian old Field. Here we encamped notwithstanding it was low ground, and enclosed on two Sides with a Swamp. At this place we found the variation of the needle lessened to  $2^{\circ} : 30'$ .

3. The Surveyors ran the Line 12 Miles and three quarters. Great part of the way was thro' clear woods, but as they approacht Meherrin River, they cut thro' several Mirey Branches. They reacht Meherrin about Sun Set, and the grounds were so uneven near the River, that it was difficult to find a Place level enough to encamp upon.



The distance from the mouth of Rottoway River to the banks of Meherrin where the line crossd, was found to be 13 miles and a Quarter.

4 We forded the River and found the Bank on the West side very steep: The Surveyors carried on the Line 2 miles and 39 chains, in which distance the River was so winding that they crossd it no less than 3 times.

5<sup>th</sup> The Commissioners considering the great fatigue already undergone, and the danger of Rattle-Snakes in this advanced Season, determined to proceed no farther with the Line 'til the Fall. The Surveyors formed a Map of the Line they had run from Coratuck Inlet to this Place, and found the distance from East to West to be 75 Miles and 15 chains. Of this Map they made 2 Copies, which agreeing exactly, were subscribed by the Commissioners of both Colonys, and one of them was delivered to those of Virginia, and the other to those of Carolina, <sup>[added in another hand]</sup> who are to meet again the tenth of September.]

W Byrd.

R Fitzwilliam

W Dandridge

6<sup>th</sup> Endorsed. Virginia / Journal of the Commis<sup>rs</sup> / for Settling the Boundaries between / Virginia and North Carolina, and a Plan of the S Line / bound up with the other maps / referred to in / Maj<sup>r</sup> Gooch's letter / of 8 June 1728 / Rec<sup>d</sup>. 30 July 1728 / R.S. 4 / 11